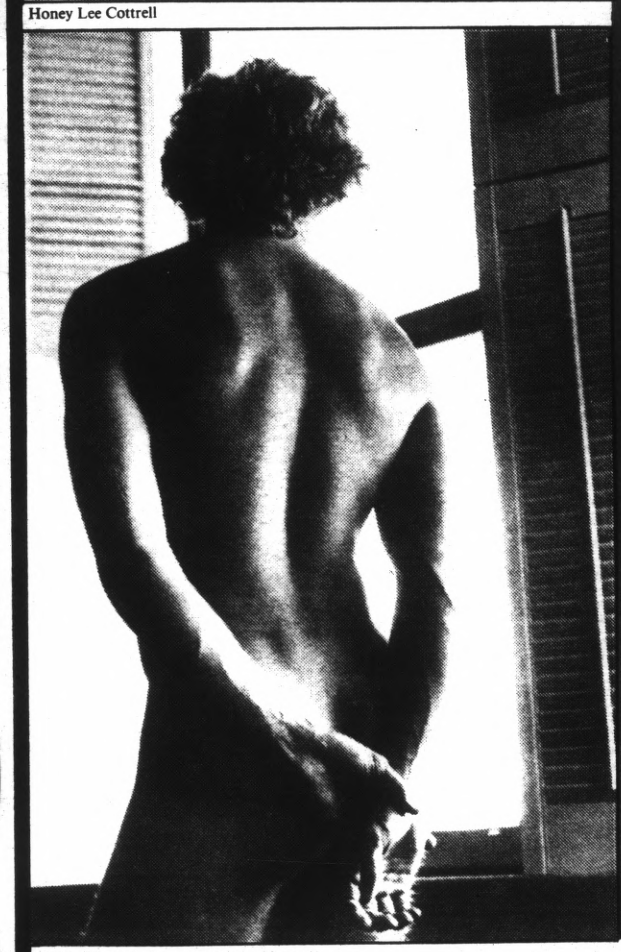
VOLUME 9, NO. 12
SEPTEMBER 1988

COMING UP!

THE GAY/LESBIAN NEWSPAPER AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE BAY AREA

DEATH BY PLACEBO
INSURANCE COMPANIES PUSH US TO THE WALL

Honey Lee Cottrell



Hella Hammid from "Erotic by Nature"

SEX IS THE ISSUE

FREEDOM OR BETRAYAL?
Lesbians Who Sleep With Men

SEX IS JUST A FOUR LETTER WORD

SAFE(R) SEX GUIDELINES
Border Disputes Rage On

PLUS THESE BOOK REVIEWS
Lesbian Couples
A History of Sexuality in America

Coming of Age with Lesbian Mothers

Barbara Maggiani

Virginia Cholesterol's Tasteful Account of George Bush's New Orleans

Patsy Lynch

If you have tested HIV positive but have not yet developed AIDS or ARC... there is something you can do.

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The Positive Action HealthCare medical group is headed by Alan S. Levin, M.D., assisted by a staff of scientists and physicians who are specialists in the treatment of problems of the immune system and have published numerous medical and scientific documents in this field. Dr. Levin has served as Adjunct Associate Professor of Immunology at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center. In private practice in San Francisco since 1981, he established Positive Action HealthCare in 1987 to deal specifically with immune disorders related to the HIV virus.

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LETTERS

See What Straight Men Do

Just as the ceaseless sounds of the surf along all the thousands and thousands of beach miles on this earth are everywhere present in their simultaneity, so it is with all the words that are always and in every moment being spoken. To wit that, there is no moment in this world in which at least a couple of billion voices are not being raised; quite a massive river of sound.

Looking down on this ever present word-speech fabric, let's focus in on only those anger carrying expressions, vocalized by real or straight men to each other, known as expletives or cuss words.

Restricting ourselves to English, I suppose there's a way to calculate, say, how many times in any one hour these hundreds of millions of men speak to each other such expressions.

If we were to make a list of these expletives and examine them, we would see that the psyches of these men are angrily, relentlessly and murderously producing *homosexual images*. I suspect, for example, that over a period of a week this must occur several billions of times, in a month up in the trillions of times.

When a man says to another man, "I'm gonna get your ass," he's threatening injury *and* he's threatening to put his penis up that man's anus. When one man says to another man, "Sit on it," his mind is thinking erect penis. "Up yours" is similarly threatening and is the same image, to give three examples.

My suspicion is that the homosexual taboo, which is producing the words, is also and of necessity preventing the image from being seen by the mind.

I strongly suggest that we exercise our creative wills to bring into being a means to cause these hundreds of millions of straight men or rectumites (as I call them) to *see* the images their minds are producing as they are doing so, and that they are doing this millions of times in each and every minute, bar none.

Then, let's sit back and watch the universal squirm.

Cordially,
Leland Mellott
San Francisco

Great Reviews!

I have enjoyed Gene Price's theatre reviews in the past.

When I read his reviews in the August issue of *CU!*, it happened that I had seen the plays he reviewed. I was struck once again by his perception and his judgements, which were both sensible and fair. Further, his reviews are blessedly free of cant.

Congratulations to him on a job well done.

Sincerely
Dick Clayton
San Francisco

Omertà — Basta!

I agree one hundred percent with Jane Scolieri's letter in the August CU! about the under-representation of non-white people in the lesbian/gay film festival. It's about time lesbians acknowledge cutlures other than white. As Scolieri says, "...total invisibility of [non-white cultures] encourages ignorance and can only lead to oppression."

There is one statement in her letter, however, that would be a joke if it weren't so sad. Scolieri says, "As a white woman myself, I can choose to shrug this off." Apparently, Scolieri's own culture is so totally invisible even to her that she doesn't even know what she is — because she's not white. As an Italian-American, she's of Mediterranean descent — that means she's Olive.

I don't know what kind of "place" Scolieri has managed to achieve for herself by passing as white, but there are a lot of Olive people, both female and male, both gay and straight, who are getting tired of being crammed into ill-fitting white spaces, and then being ridiculed for the poor fit — and then being expected to be grateful for it.

All the complaints Scolieri makes on behalf of people of color (and there was no letter on the subject written by a person of color) could be made on behalf of Olive people — and, at this point, with more cause. Scolieri mentions a few films including Black people. Did she see Olive people recognized at the film festival? I doubt that she's seen Olive people recognized in her own family.

Go into a women's bookstore and count the dozens of anthologies of Black or Hispanic or Native American women. Then count the only anthology of Italian-American women. Yes, there's really one whole anthology of Olive women, although it wasn't published until 1985 and the chances are pretty damned good you won't find it in your women's bookstore.

How many times have you seen Olive women mentioned in lesbian literary journals? On the very, very rare occasions I have seen us mentioned, we are always used in a negative way. Do you need a mindless wimp in your poem? Do you need a criminal in your story? Just scribble an Italian name and you've got instant character development.

But we are not only oppressed through neglect in the arts. I know of one woman who was recently fired from her job at a lesbian-feminist organization for insisting she's Olive and refusing to be cubby-holed as "generic white." They said that by claiming her right to self-definition she was disrupting their anti-racism program. It was only when she threatened to sue that they agreed to say she'd been laid off so she could file for unemployment benefits.

Of course, we have suffered as Olive people in the mainstream society as well, and not just in the lesbian community. Since our people arrived in this country, we have been lynched, raped, run out of town, denied housing, employment and respect — and we have been denied acknowledgment of existence. I think that's part of the reason I have found much more support, as a lesbian, in the Italian-American community, than I have as an Italian-American in the lesbian community.

My commari and I would like to suggest to Scolieri that she fight for recognition of her own neglected culture instead of writing letters that reinforce the total invisibility of all of us who are Olive. Part of our right to self-definition is the obligation to complain for our own — and to allow others to complain (or speak) for themselves.

Sorella, it is *you* who are oppressed by total invisibility. Before you white-wash your own people to the point of extinction, wake up and smell the espresso.

Nella sorellanza,
Rose Romano
San Francisco

If We Can Read Between the Lines

First of all, I'd like to know why most of these christian-types are so upset over some movie about someone whose name they have already disgraced, debased, and morally bankrupted anyway.

As my mind recollects history, and recent history, at that, these same people have annihilated without mercy millions and millions of their fellow human beings; whole cultures and religions, on the basis that what everyone else believed in was wrong.

When I think of torture, oppression, murder and anything else low and evil, I think of christianity. Just look at what they've done on this continent, alone.

And for those calling themselves Christian to claim it was all in the past, is not valid either. So was Hitler's era, which by comparison was almost amateurish, and we have to keep that alive too, so that people will always know.

The Christian leaders, when I see them, are still practicing their oppression and murder by using the "trickle-down" effect. They've had 1900 years to work out all the flaws, call themselves "Christian," and come out looking good.

I think everyone should start reading history again so they'll really know these people. If we can read *between* the lines of historians, we'll really be grossed out.

It would be nice to hear just one of those people quote something from the bible to justify what they have done!

A spiritual person
without christianity,
Thom Rickert

P.R. Problem

At the risk of sounding naive and conservative (I am neither), I would like to propose a way that the community can gain greater acceptance by Middle America — something we must do to gain the support necessary to save lives at this time of crisis.

Simply put, we have a P.R. problem which can be remedied.

Many Middle Americans reject liberation because of another, all too different, issue: promiscuity. This dynamic is not exclusively Gay, and this linkage must be broken just as we are uncoupling the equation of AIDS as a Gay disease.

Most of us were raised with Middle American value systems which we have not lost. We are all seeking love and not just sex. Middle America must be made to understand this.

I believe that many if not most Americans will accept us once they adjust to the initial shock of realizing that we exist and are seeking love. This transition is similar to that which our parents go through after we come out to them.

Granted, there will always be a high degree of rejection by the more conservative elements of society. In time, this resistance will erode, but it will take much longer.

We do not have to compromise our gains of personal freedom in order to achieve greater acceptance and support. Gay leadership must pursue ways of addressing these concerns so progress can be accelerated.

Charles Marsteller III
San Francisco

How to Have Sane Relationships

I well recognize the relationships "A Letter to the Lesbian Community" (August CU!) describes. I've had relationships like that with women, but I've also had them with men, and I think the problem is not caused by a failure to act on feminist principles, but is a manifestation of codependence.

Codependents are those of us who have organzied our personalities around the dysfunction (alcoholism, drug abuse, mental illness, compulsive overating, workaholism, physical/sexual/emotional abusivesness, etc.) of someone else (often a parent) and have become dysfunctional ourselves.

Codependents come in many varieties and play out many patterns. One commonality is problems with intimacy. Codependents have a hard time trusting and a hard time knowing and expressing what they feel.

Getting into a new relationship and finding myself treating the other person disrespectfully may be a way of precluding dreaded intimacy. It may be my punishment to them when it turns out that, after all, they aren't going to fix me and give me what my parents failed to. It may be sabotage because my own self-esteem is so damaged that I can't believe anyone could love me. It may be caused by my attempts to control the other person because I've confused her with the source and have to make sure she doesn't get away.

Getting into a new relationship and finding myself being treated disrespectfully may mean I've recreated an old family dynamic. It may, again, arise form low self-esteem. It may mean I've taken on the job of fixing someone else — that I've made up my mind to "love" this person no matter what, because I can see the marvelous potential inside them and I know that, with proper nurturing, it will emerge.

All of these things are codependence, or perhaps downright sex and love addiction. Some professionals in the field have estimated that as many as 96% of Americans are codependent. If we managed to avoid being born into a dysfunctional family, we live in a dysfunctional society.

Our job is not to make up our minds to do better, and it is certainly not to beat ourselves for failing to bring our feminist principles to bear in our relationships. We need to heal ourselves — in therapy or in support groups. Several 12-step groups also address these issues (Al-Anon, Nar-Anon, Codependents Anonymous, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, Adult Children of Alcoholics).

Regarding knowing who is safe, therapist Terry

(continued on page 22)

LETTER INFO: Deadline for letters to appear in the October issue is September 20. Please type and double-space letters if at all possible. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. All letters must provide a name, address *and* phone number for verification. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters submitted only with pseudonyms, but will withhold your name on request.

COMING UP!

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Performers, clubs, individuals or groups who want to list events in the calendar mail notices so they reach us by the *20th of the month preceding publication.* We cannot take listings by phone.

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This ad donated in part by Coming Up! Newspaper

sex is just a four letter word

BY MARK I. CHESTER

Passages. Steps on a journey. Stations of the cross. And maybe a sexual pitstop in hell. The last eight years have been filled with so many closings. Chapters finished, doors slammed and dead boys buried.

But buried within the darkness is a pool of light. It reflects a community in the process of metamorphosis. Evolution and transformation. The changes are coming so fast it makes my head spin. I think I have it under control and then all of a sudden something snaps.

Mad Queen! Mad Queen! Move Down! Move Down! Wait a minute. This isn't some fictional mondo tea party. *This is real*. How do you keep your balance in this downpour of madness? We are wounded children with festering wounds, lost in an endless, nightmare twilight zone.

Shit! I've got to stop this!

So, I pull it all together. Put the pieces back where they belong. Then the anger hits me and I am once again lost.

If you're expecting quiet calm and discreet rationality you might as well turn to the *Coming Up!* calendar. Welcome to travels on the U.S.S. Railing Queen. When a mad queen buys a ticket on the Railing Queen, there is nothing you can do but, stand on the dock, raise your hands in the air, throw confetti and wave Bon Voyage.

I feel like I have been fighting all my life for the right to be who I am. So, do not expect me to go gently into this good night. You're even crazier if you expect me to go into it sexless. To be honest, I am surprised that you are reading these words on the pages of the lesbian/gay press. S-E-X has become a dirty word, unspeakable and unprintable in the new dark ages. Being queer is just a political identification. It no longer has anything to do with sex.

Images of cocks and cunts, for example, now taboo on the pages of the malingering gay press black dots abound, like Victorian fig leaves. We have become sexless Ken and Barbie dolls, with smooth hard crotches. We stand publicly castrated, anatomically incorrect.

Believe me, I understand. There are lots of *good* reasons for this attempt at tainted respectability. These days, cocks and cunts conflict with political aspirations. They're also a problem if you are seeking big advertising bucks from straight corporations. And if your spiritual nose is stuck up your shit-free spiritual ass, they are socially tasteless, if not downright pornographic. And we all know what that means.

I never imagined that I would be a gay man doing gay work in a gay city and be unable to get much of my gay work published in the gay media because the work is *too* explicitly gay.

This is fear transformed into political correctness. How can there not be rage at such hypocritical hype? The lesbian and gay media overflow with upfront sexual ads. They fill their pockets with jingling Judas' silver, and then turn around and bar explicit sexual imagery and descriptions from the very same pages.

The restriction of explicit sexual imagery in commercial advertising is one thing. But the elimination of artistic images that explore the very foundation of our sexuality is outright censorship. It makes no difference to the gay press whether we are talking about commerical advertising or artistic expression. A dick is a dick is a dick. A cunt is a cunt is a cunt. And dicks and cunts are fucking taboo!

The very nature of our erotic desire has become an embarrassment to some. Historical revisionism runs rampant. In the name of public respectability, we are to turn our back on our explorations throughout the 1970s and declare those times a bad mistake, a disastrous error in judgement and the fatal flaw in our tragic human nature. The sexuality of the homoaffectional desire is being publicly excised from our lives and we are being returned to the sexual invisibility of the repressive 1950s.

What better example than being curled up in bed and watching Dr. Ruth Westheimer and Dr. Mathilde Krim discuss AIDS. Dr. Ruth asks Dr. Krim to explain the most important way to prevent getting AIDS. Instantly, I think, safe sex and condoms. I'm knocked on my ass when Dr. Krim responds, "Stop having casual sex," and Dr. Ruth adds, "Only have sex in a committed relationship."

These are our friends. They are respected, learned professionals who are on our side. Although safe sex and condoms were second on their list, an embargo against casual sex, as the most important tool in fighting AIDS is nothing more than moral hogwash. The important tool in fighting AIDS is *continuing* education and direct, clearly presented information on sex, sexuality and the transmission of AIDS.

This insistence that we disown the evolution of our sexual freedom suggests that we mimic the heterosexual model of relationships: solitary couples and white picket fences. Monogamous coupling is a trendy bandwagon propelled by the belief that monogamy is the antidote for sexual explorations within the gay community that have "gone too far." It mistakenly and dishonestly implies that a social milieu that promotes sexual experimentation is to blame for the health crisis.

It's almost 1989. Why are we still fighting the battle of it's not *what* you do, or *whom* you do it with, or *where* you do it, but *how* you do it? Sorry, but I strongly believe in responsible promiscuity. I would rather have creative, unusual, absolutely safe sex with 100 anonymous people in a dark room than unsafe sex with one person I know well in a brightly lit room. Give up casual sex we are told, just say no, give up casual sex, just say no... shit, what they mean is just give up. Why not just say no to people who say no?

This atack on our right to have unauthorized orgasms and unlegislated pleasures and our acquiescence to it under the guise of social responsibility threatens us as dangerously as those political piggies stuffed into their presumtuous black robes.

Just as bad is the gay media's disinterest and/or refusal to publish desperately needed frank discussions and dialogues on sexuality and erotic pleasure. The big lie is that the only options to unsafe sex that are available to us are condoms and masturbation. We do ourselves, our bodies and our spirits an incredible disservice when we define sex and sexuality *only* as the penetration of one's body cavities by another person's body parts, that culminates in the act of physical orgasm.

The exploration of sexual pleasure, outside the commands of the government of the United States, is a revolutionary act. It proclaims that we as gay men and lesbians are free to interact, love and be loved in our own language. It promotes the freedom of spirituality and sexuality as a tenet as valued as freedom of religion.

I like to think of radical sexuality as adult sexual games played with a childlike sense of wonder, awe and excitement. Sometimes I use unusual methods and implements to tantalize, torment, torture and tease someone, keeping them right on the edge of orgasm for extended periods of time. Sometimes I have used ropes and restraints to create the sensation of peacefully floating weightless in a black vacuum, as if meditating, or floating in a water isolation tank.

In one of my only partially fulfilled fantasies, I fuck my partner while wearing a strap-on dildoe harness with gradually larger dildoes that increase in both length and size. The fantasies and their resulting realities are endless, and sometimes I am the recipient. Does all of this sound strange to you? Who knows why it feels so unstrange to me.

More to the point, it can be safe, intensely erotic and wildly pleasurable. And that should be the most important gauge. I am not advocating my particular explorations as anything but what works for me. The wonder and the beauty is that every set of players creates their own rules and regulations. The discoveries blossom out of consensual and mutual communication, trust, and vulnerability. And just like any other sexual behavior, if it doesn't feel *good* to both parties, something's not right.

But considering the times, it is understandably difficult for some people to take such an out-on-the-edge stand. The political right foams at the mouth at the sight of materials promoting fucking and sucking with rubbers, let alone non-standard kink. An extraordinary amount of time, energy, publicity and money has been focused on the promotion of condoms (even a full length book on how to use a condom) and making the sexual acts of fucking and sucking safer. And with good reason, but it should only be our first step. It should just be our first line of defense.

Inordinately few resources have gone towards exploring and expanding our sexual horizons. Or talking about sexual pleasure, what it is and how it can be achieved. Are we not ready to take the next step yet? It moves beyond teaching people how to protect themselves, and focuses on how people can begin to discover and then meet their sexual and emotional needs.

But it is hard because of the increasingly negative messages out in the real world. And those messages are not just coming from the straight world. A 1985 gay male soft core porn mag of pretty men with hard dicks screams on its cover, "Hot Men to Die For." An erotic cartoon in another has a stinky sweaty cowboy with a huge dick asking his kneeling cocksucker if he wants him to take a shower. The cocksucker thinks, "I'd suck it even if he dipped it in poison." Oh, yeah?

Or the much publicized San Francisco AIDS Foundation "Dress for the Occasion" poster designed to eroticize condoms. Their search for a model was limited to bodybuilders with built-up large physiques and large cocks, while they nixed anyone with tattoos, a skinny body or stretched out nipples. Just who at the AIDS Foundation decided that the ad *must* maintain the porno ideal of a super physique and large cock on a white man whose head was cut off in order to reach gay men? And were they afraid that someone with stretched out nipples would communicate the idea that some men find their nipples erotic and like to have them played with?

It is very easy to be offended by the sexual behavior and style of others. Some straight people are offended by the sexual behavior and style of gay people all the time. But when gay people are offended by the consensual sexual behavior of other gay people, we are in real trouble. We haven't learned a fucking thing. If we are unwilling to accept the broad range of differences within our own community, how can we expect others to accept us?

Still, if the path of sexual health and growth has barely started in San Francisco's gay community, sometimes it's even harder to imagine how terrified some of the straight community is in the Bay Area. Like the self-avowed 15-year career nurse, Alice Kahn, who writes a column for the Sunday paper. "Safety is not a hot item in sexual fantasyland," she proclaims.

She is right in one sense. Those who refuse to change with the times will be left behind. Like Jews exiled in the desert for 40 years, only some of us will enter the promised land. And for us, safety is not only hot sex, it is some of the best sex we have ever had.

But it gets better (or worse) in the Sunday paper. Kahn describes the current reality, "Those people who've had a mundane sex life are suddenly rewarded with no-holds-barred party time while the wild and crazy set are stuck in Three Mile Island jumpsuits for the rest of eternity."

This many years into the health crisis, and even here in San Francisco, intelligent, "enlightened" people are lost in a maelstrom of fear, innuendo, misinformation and hysteria.

It almost makes me feel sane.

SAFE(R) SEX GUIDELINES BORDER DISPUTES RAGE ON

BY TIM KINGSTON

"I used to gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble. I loved to suck cock. I loved to swallow semen. I think it's just terrific. I wish I could do it all I wanted to," stated a rueful Clark Taylor, director of the AIDS STD Prevention Program at the Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco. "However, as far as I am concerned, without a condom that is off my list." The AIDS epidemic has taken a toll not only of the community, but also of our sexual forays and mores.

While safer sex is now ostensibly the norm for a majority of gay men in San Francisco, not everyone is as cautious as Taylor. There are many who suck unprotected cock in all it's glorious tumescence, and others who revel in the power and the glory of a rock hard rod in the nether regions, with and with/out the use of any barriers. Many consider their actions safe to one degree or another.

"No matter what the guidelines are, people will do what they do — at least we can have the guidelines as clear and reasonable as possible," critiques Taylor. Cindy Patton, author of *Making It* a recent book on safer sex for women, suspects that rates of people who occasionally lapse into unsafe sex, at least on the East Coast, are as high as 25 to 30 per cent.

Taylor argues that the currently accepted definition of safer sex needs expansion: "What we suffer from is over simplicity. We should have simple guidelines for simple people, but most of us are a lot more sophisticated than we are given credit for."

Safer sex practices including the use of condoms, jack off clubs, phone sex and other less risky forms of sexuality have caused an unprecedented drop in HIV transmission rates, an event unique in the history of medical science, and an achievement the gay community should rightly be proud of. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) now projects an HIV infection rate of only four percent per year. That, however, still means about 1,000 gay and bisexual men per year will become infected.

But there are rumblings of discontent. Dissatisfaction with the safe sex guidelines simmers quietly. Debates rage, in private and on the street. People query why is fisting unsafe — or is it just looked down on? "My friend heard about a study that says oral sex is safe." Rumors swirl. Why is kissing still not on the safe list? What is "safe"??

Unsafe is easy to define. The surest mode of HIV transmission is to be the bottom in anal sex that deposits infected semen into an unprotected asshole. Equally risky is vaginal intercourse without protection — the high risk assigned to the woman. Dr. George Rutherford, medical director of the San Francisco AIDS Activity Office, reckons 70 percent of seroconversions in the City Clinic's 6,700 strong cohort are due to unprotected receptive anal sex. That conclusion is backed by all epidemiologists and AIDS educators *Coming Up!* contacted.

Among the heterosexual population "the major problem is sharing needles. Apparently needle sharing is more common among men," says Dr. Warren Winkelstein, professor of epidemiology at U.C. Berkeley and director of the Men's' Health Study, one of the largest in the country. HIV infection is then passed on to women partners of the needle using men, and it is then transferred perinataly to children.

Photo by Marjorie Michael from "Erotic by Nature"

The three original safer sex categories were created by the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights (BAPHR): safe — hugging, strokes, jacking off, fantasy, frottage, watersports on unbroken skin, unshared sex toys; possibly safe — anal/vaginal penetration with a condom, kissing, sucking without climax, finger fucking; unsafe — penetrative sex without condoms, sucking to climax, rimming, fisting, internal watersports.

What the guidelines are not able to do is give an idea of just how risky any particular activity is beyond a common sense understanding that HIV is most prevalent in semen (cum), thus activities that result in cum getting anywhere near the bloodstream should be avoided.

David Lourea, a sexologist with the Sexual Health Project, complains the guidelines are "very one dimensional... everyone uses them as holy scripture, (but) these are very limited blueprints." Lourea acknowledges it is not the fault of the guidelines: "A lot of people want to be spoon-fed" and be given rules rather than creating their own set of guidelines.

Lyn Paleo, SF AIDS Foundation's education officer, says the AIDS Foundation safe sex guidelines are now in the middle of a "substantial review." They are also being updated as a result of new information and in an effort to reach those who still decide to have unsafe sex.

Paleo contends the categories were created as a strictly medical set of warnings about HIV transmission. She stresses they were never intended to stand alone, but instead were to be used in conjunction with the AIDS hotline, other educational brochures and community meetings and AIDS presentations.

The AIDS Foundation isn't the only local organization taking a hard look at safer sex. Dr. Rutherford says the DPH is in the middle of an annual review of its own guidelines using data from the Stockholm AIDS conference and the recent CDC minority AIDS conference in Washington D.C.

Oral Sex

"Gay men are not giving up on oral sex," states Dr. Paul O'Malley, director the Field Studies Unit of the city's AIDS office. Most are sucking without cumming, which is directly related to trusting one's partner.

Of all the practices in the guidlines, oral sex has stirred the most debate. At the Gay/Lesbian Health conference in Boston in July an attempt was made to shift oral sex over into the "safe" category, or at least a sort of very possibly safe category; the result was heated discussion but no change in policies. Sucking, swallowing or not swallowing, is as ambigious as ever.

No one contacted by *Coming Up!* would draw any new conclusions about oral sex. It is still possibly safe/unsafe and that's as far as they would go. Dr. O'Malley commented, "Part of the problem that we have here (is that) researchers do not have complete answers."

"Basically we could not analyze oral sex," explains Dr. Ruth Greenblatt, an assistant professor of medicine at UCSF who analyzed much of the data from the San Francisco City Clinic Cohorts and the SF General Cohorts." In our study virtually everyone had oral sex." Once all the other major transmission routes are eliminated, not enough people who only sucked or were sucked could be isolated to draw any statistically significant conclusions.

Coming Up! did locate one well-documented case of seroconversion solely through sucking to climax recorded by Dr. Ken Mayer, research director of the Fenway Community Clinic in Boston and a Professor of Infectious Diseases at Brown University. Mayer says the man came to the clinic HIV negative, and after three visits seroconverted. At every interview the man asserted he was only practicing oral sex. Mayer commented, "Such cases are few and far between, which doesn't mean that oral sex is safe."

At the Stockholm conference Dr. Willy Rosenbaum submitted a study suggesting that five individuals in Paris had also seroconverted from oral sex. American epidemiologists including Mayer were not impressed with the study. They felt the study was too short — three months — for good data. Interviews with the men were also conducted *after* seroconversion, that led Mayer to suspect the reliability of the subjects' answers.

In San Francisco, Dr. Dennis Osmond, a specialist in epidemiology at UCSF and project director of the SF General Cohort, found a slightly increased risk ratio for oral intercourse, but he added, "This is a weak association. I wouldn't put a lot of weight on it, nevertheless that was the finding."

Researchers were matter-of-fact about the uncertainty surrounding oral sex, but they made a point of cautioning the lack of significant data either way should not encourage gay men to ignore precautions. O'Malley urged men to be aware of herpes, oral lesions and/or genital sores when the question is to suck or not to suck.

AIDS educators are skittish about oral sex. "I would be very reluctant to say fellatio was safe today and find out two years from now that we were wrong. That would be a lot of people's lives who are in danger."

Clark Taylor worried that after seeing all the inconclusive data men will start saying, "I can suck cock again," without protection. In particular he is nervous about HIV positive individuals and those with ARC and AIDS at risk for cofactor infections.

Taylor says, "I am concerned that people who want to change the guideline aren't thinking... about whether they might cause a person with HIV to die if they give them a load."

That is up to each individual involved. Carol Da Silva, community outreach officer for the East Bay AIDS Project says, "The bottom line after we tell folks what we know is we turn the question back on their own risk assessment.

Do they drive a motorbike? Do they wear a helmet?"

Cautionary Tails (Sic)

As prevention eliminates the primary HIV transmission modes, secondary routes of transmission are revealed. Co-factors will become ever more important as the less efficient modes of HIV transmission occupy a more pre-eminent role in seroconversions. Recent studies implicate *insertive* anal sex without a condom as a significant risk.

Dr. O'Malley found a statistically significant correlation between insertive unprotected anal sex with a person with AIDS and seroconversion.

"We are not just speculating," warned Dr.O'Malley who says he wants to get the word out to men who are not aware the behavior is risky. Other men are aware of the risk, he says, but have made a conscious decision to accept it.

Dennis Osmond of UCSF also found a significant link between seroconversion and HIV disease progression. In other words, *when* one has sex is just as important as how one has it. Dr. Osmond found of 117 men whose sexual partners were nearing or had developed ARC or AIDS. All those who continued being fucked without protection developed antibodies to the virus. Of those who stopped the practice before the onset of symptoms, only half seroconverted. Dr. Osmond speculated the reason is "as the infection proceeds the virus replicates more, which is consistent with greater infectiousness."

Co-Factors

Clark Taylor believes the traditional guidelines do not take account of cofactors, particularly in the case of people who are HIV infected or have ARC or AIDS. He says, "The guidelines are skewed to people who are uninfected or to keep those who are infected from infecting others." For people who are infected with HIV, or have AIDS or ARC, safer sex using condoms is essential to prevent the transmission of other diseases such as CMV and clymidia which can have crippling consequences for the immune system of an infected individual.

Dr. Osmond found a history of gonorrhea correlated strongly with seroconversion. Other studies noted in the Journal of American Public Health, the Journal of the American Medical Association and The Lancet, a British medical journal, detected correlations between seroconversion and douching before sex; genital anorectal and oral herpes; syphilis; and the use of nitrates (poppers). (It should be noted that these correlations are related to population groups, *not* individual risk, which is entirely related to an individual's medical and sexual history.)

Alcohol and drug use are indirect risk factors. They don't actually transmit the virus but can lead to unsafe sexual behavior. Laboratory tests at UCLA have shown the virus replicates faster in blood cells exposed to alcohol, thus weakening the immune system. Some recreational drugs also increase one's pain threshold, so if one is getting fucked, more trauma to rectal membranes can occur, increasing the risk of infection.

The problem is, as guidelines become increasingly broad, they may start to backfire. Carol Da Silva with the East Bay AIDS Project compared the current situation to the way people were dealing with carcinogens ten years ago — everyone was very concerned, and now there is a sense of fatalism. She says the guidelines can get in the way of education unnecessarily, "If people think they can't kiss anymore they don't want to hear it."

That is why Dr. Rutherford argues the concept of relative risk levels must be explained and understood, "We must help people with gradations. This is an informed and educated population. We have to give them the information and have them interpret it; present them with the facts."

The Thinly Trod Line: Fatally Optimistic or Painfully Restrictive

The dilemma AIDS educators face is that just as decisions around sexual choices are more complex and the new data is more ambiguous, burn-out is setting in among those who need to hear the new information most. "We have a community that is tired of hearing these messages. They have heard it on and on and on," warns Rene Durazzo, AIDS Foundation media coordinator officer.

Promoters of safe sex education are divided. Some argue for a tightening of the guidelines and shifting more of the possibly safe into the possibly unsafe category. Others desire an expansion and radical overhaul of the recommendations.

In Washington D.C., the Whitman Walker Clinic recently revised its own guidelines and launched a series of advertisements with the slogan, "Can you live without anal sex? You sure can love without it."

George Swales, director of education, says, "The clinic simply stepped out to say the culprit is receptive anal sex. The community needs to look at this. It took us a long time. It's a sensitive issue and strikes at how people define themselves." He stated firmly, "The purpose was to create dialogue," not undermine safer anal sex with condoms.

The response of the SF AIDS Foundation is so far less visceral. On the one hand, Paleo urges a possible tightening up of some categories, such as giving up anal intercourse entirely. On the other she argues for an expansion of the information available, while examining "the barriers are that are preventing people doing what they know they should be doing." Several recent AIDS Foundation brochures attempt to address "slippage," e.g. occasional unsafe sex; fatalism — the feeling that whatever you do you are already infected; boredom with safe sex; and bias against condoms.

In new SF AIDS literature the safe, possibly safe and unsafe categories are tempered by longer explanations and suggestions touching on jacking off, fantasy, watersports and other activities mentioned by the guidelines. "I think part of the way out is to change the format of the message altogether, so you are not listing things in three categories."

Another suggestion being floated is to try and put the different activities on a single axis, with safe sex at one end and unsafe sex at the other. Lourea explains that safe sex would be laid out along "a continuum, and there are things that increase and decrease risk." Thus it would be possible to estimate the relative risk of, say, fisting vs. kissing, and people would be able to create their own particular set of risk reduction guidelines.

Unfortunately, says Paleo, the information is not there, "I don't think any doctor or researcher could plot you a nice simple continuum that would have fisting and rimming and fellatio and cunnilingus all neatly laid out. I know they couldn't do that any more than medieval doctors could count the number of angels on a pinhead."

The most radical suggestion comes from Cindy Patton, who makes a case for junking the entire system. She believes the smorgasborg choice approach resulting in a "proliferation of different categories" is ineffective. Instead, she says safer sex education should focus on preventing semen entering the vagina or anus: "This is the number one thing to reduce, and if you don't reduce that, it is pointless to reduce anything else... and on top of that, if they want to reduce their risk even further, they can reduce other things as well."

Patton asserts the risk of condom breakage exceeds any other risks. She says, "All the Europeans will tell you that. The Dutch

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CONTENTIOUS PRACTICES

Photo by Marjorie Michael from "Erotic by Nature"

FISTING

Fisting by itself is not necessarily a risk, researchers and educators agree. "The problem with fisting is that it is an indirect problem, especially if you are wearing a glove," explains Priscilla Alexander, co-director of COYOTE, a prostitutes-rights organization. "Fisting can set up a condition where the virus can gain access" through cuts and abrasions in vaginal walls and rectal tissue.

Epidemiologically, those who engaged in fisting along with other activities in the City Clinic Study had a 92 percent seroconversion rate, while the average in the study was about 70 percent. It has to be remembered those figures are population averages, and cannot directly be used to assess individual risk.

RIMMING

Although no clear link between rimming and seropositivity has been found, no one *Coming Up!* contacted had any hesitation about leaving it in the unsafe category because of the possibility of other infections and STDs that can impair the immune system. Lourea, on the other hand, said that rimming should prove no greater risk than anal or vaginal sex with a condom.

KISSING

"I get enraged every time I see deep kissing (listed as possibly unsafe) on one of the safe sex guidelines cards," declared DaSilva." She is not all that happy defining it as possibly safe either, although she suspects it is safe. Dr. O'Malley says he is aware of evidence suggesting that saliva inhibits the virus. "It's not the kissing," says Paleo, "but under what conditions the kissing occurs." Individuals are advised to be aware of any oral sores, scrapes and cuts inside the mouth. No one contacted thought transmission through kissing was likely, but none were willing to say it is completely safe either.

Taylor believes HIV is abundant in saliva and it is immunoglobulin that binds to the virus preventing transmission, but he says 1 in every 450 people is immunoglobulin deficient and could conceivably sereoconvert from deep kissing.

MULTIPLE PARTNERS

Virtually without exception all the early guidelines emphasized reducing the number of partners and some suggested that individuals choose their partners carefully. Now, however, AIDS educators and gay men have finally acknowledged it is not number of partners, but if whether or not one practices safe sex with them.

Epidemiologically the number of partners is less important than where those partners are. Rate of infection in the area is the crucial factor, explains Dr. Osmond. In areas where the rate of infection is high (as in San Francisco averaging 50 percent) if one has unsafe sex with more than one partner, one's chance of running into the virus are 50 per cent. In an area with only 10 percent infection you "need" to have unsafe sex with at least 10 partners to statistically be assured of encountering the virus, so the number of unsafe sex partners may have an impact in areas with low infection rates.

Finally "choosing (partners) carefully does not guarantee that you are not going to get infected," cautions DaSilva, "because it is not choosing carefully, it is being unlucky."

CELIBACY

In some ways perhaps the most dangerous sexual practice is celibacy, if chosen out of fear. David Lourea notes that people who do that, "Have no sex, until they have sex again!" AIDS has scared many people from having sex or dealing with the issues surrounding safe sex and how to protect oneself from the epidemic. He states, "All that does is delay the infection or the risk." Then when someone who has opted for celibacy meets someone they want to have sex with, they are overwhelmed and cannot negotiate safe sex. They are at high risk to have unsafe sex and go right back into hibernation none the wiser.

FREEDOM OR BETRAYAL?

Lesbians Who Sleep With Men

Photo by Gon Buurman

BY KIM CORSARO

Whenever the conversation turns to lesbian sexuality these days, it seems like someone brings up the subject of "lesbians sleeping with men." The topic certainly evokes a wide range of response and intense argument.

Coming Up! decided to explore this topic in this special issue on sexuality we're presenting in conjunction with the Sex Liberties Conference to be held later this month in San Francisco. So we spoke with Susie Bright (a.k.a. Susie Sexpert) — she's the editor of the lesbian sex magazine *On Our Backs*, she's written in all kinds of gay and mainstream publications on lesbian sexuality, and she lectures across the country on a whole range of topics of concern to lesbians about sex. She's also just had her first book published, *Herotica*, an anthology of erotic fiction she edited.

(Coming Up!) What do you think about what various groups in the community — the political lesbians, the therapists, the dyke on the street — are saying now about lesbians who sleep with men?

(Susie) What are the therapists saying?

The ones I've talked to are saying they think it's a form of internalized homophobia, number 1. Also, they think the community isn't strong enough for lesbians to feel good about being lesbians any more. And if you combine that with lesbian bed death, the way sexuality dies off in our relationships after a few years — well, we don't have much of a community to support us in being lesbian, and many of us are not having sex in our relationships. So, like, you know, who needs it? Might as well just go off with a man.

But they're saying that they see this in their practice?

Yes.

And, how does that differ from the political lesbian? They're just not so sympathatic, it's more like you're betraying us or what?

Sure, they see it as a betrayal — "Oh, they're just hiding behind heterosexual privilege" — it's a much more angry stance.

And it's a more familiar '70s rap to break...

Yeah. But what is ironic about it is a lot of the women that are sleeping with men are the women that used to carry on the most about separatism and how much they despised men.

And what is that? Is that just that some of the people who are the most extreme about what they will and will not do are the very ones who are repressed about it?

I think that's some of what goes on. Also, coming from the perspective of the very political community of the '70's, I think a lot of women came out as lesbians then who were probably bisexual. You know, you weren't really a feminist if you weren't a lesbian. And with the community shifting as it has, and the politics being subdued, I think many of those women just ended up with men again.

Do you see anything in terms of...

Who's interviewing who here?

I'm sorry, I'm just getting in the mood. Do the therapists see anything in terms of age? Are these all 25 year olds, or is it from 20 to 40, or is it just anybody?

I don't know. My feeling is that a lot more young women are coming out as bisexuals than as lesbians today. I think there's a lot more bisexuality in the women in their twenties than there is lesbianism, which may or may not be different than it was ten or fifteen years ago, I don't know. But I think for older women, there's large numbers of women that used to identify as lesbians in the 1970s who are now identifying as heterosexual. And I think there's another group of women that's even larger that still identifies as lesbian but regularly or ocassionally has affairs with men. And then there are women who just kind of sometimes have sex with men, and that's a whole different group.

What does that mean? Is that what I call sport fucking?

Yeah.

Well, I joked with your receptionist when she asked me what I was at the paper for, and I said, "Oh, we're going to do an interview on the biggest non-issue of the day: lesbians having sex with men."

And I said that even though there's a debate going on about lesbians having sex with men. Because this has come up almost cyclically before. That's clue number one, that this isn't some horrifying new expose.

Thing number two is that the very limited research there has been about lesbians' sex lives indicates that most lesbians have been to bed with men sometime in their lives. And that the ones who are the least likely to have had sex with men are the younger women. It's more probable that a woman in her forties had sex with men when she was a young woman than it is for a young woman coming out today. She's more likely to begin her sex life with exclusive lesbian contact.

See, here's my big point: I believe there is a renaissance of lesbian sex and more lesbian sex going on now than any period ever, and that more women are experimenting with lesbian sex than ever. By having more lesbians out there and an awareness of lesbian sex in the media, all kinds of sexual details are coming out that nobody would have ever talked about before, and lesbians having sex with men is one of them.

So this whole thing about lesbians having sex with men is just one more coming out of a million things that have been kept in the closet about lesbians' sex lives, and it's more of an indication of how popular lesbian sex is and how more widespread and openly spoken of it is than ever before. This is my theory.

I think people tend to think of this phenomenon as a diminishing of lesbianism. To me it's not a diminishing; it's a symptom of the fact that there are more lesbians than ever, lesbian sex is more discussed than ever and finally, different issues are coming up besides s/m and butch/femme, which for so long were the two dinner table conversations you were supposed to have about lesbian sex. Of course there's a million other things to discuss, whether it's sex with men or bisexuality or exhibitionism or multiple relationships or serial monogamy or lesbian bed death.

Again, lesbian bed death is just like this lesbians-with-men thing. Everyone's supposed to be feeling it as a sign of our diminishment. But there's always been this phenomena of lesbian bed death; it just didn't come on the scene three years ago. What's new about it is that people are talking about it. And people are talking about it because suddenly it is accepted to discuss lesbian sex on a level that it wasn't before.

Very sexual things are coming out of the closet that contradict the kind of community loyalty that was presumed to be possessed by all lesbians, when in fact lesbians have always been much more diverse than the community that was talked about in the papers for the last two decades.

As far as who those lesbians sleeping with men are, I'm with you in thinking there are different groups. It's only been very recently that there's a bisexual network and bisexual activism. In most gay communities there isn't room for bisexuality, so bisexuality remains a closeted issue.

Are you saying you see lesbians who sleep with men as really bisexual?

I see them as different groups. I think some are in that wonderful medium of the Kinsey scale; if zero is completely heterosexual and six is homo, there are these people that are two, three, four and five, who have found a place in the lesbian community or have had a serious lesbian relationship and yet there is something in their preference make up that leads them to have sex with men.

And because our community is so divided,

the straight community is so homophobic and the gay community is protecting our own, we're keeping up a total front. We have this defense mechanism which means fuck those bisexuals, right? It's kind of a building up of our strength, but sometimes it smacks of an inferiority complex.

Well, there are going to be some people who are truly bisexual. And there's a whole camp of gay people who don't even believe that, with the philosophy that there is no such thing — "make up your mind" — right? And that's what bisexual activists have been speaking out against for years. So there are the bisexual people who have found a home in the gay community, who feel much more at home there than in the straight community. And they would prefer to fuck men from their gay community point of view.

Then I think there is sport fucking, but you need a lot of sexual details to know what exactly that is. Does it mean you have a one-night stand with somebody? Does it mean a lesbian hasn't fucked a man in thirteen years and it just becomes this kinky occasion? Does it make her less of a lesbian? Or is it people who fuck and they don't develop love feelings or emotional attachment? Do these women have orgasms or not? There are so many very personal details that are missing because of people's fear of not wanting to be thought of as a betrayer of their community. That secretiveness has really made this an issue that is hard to talk about.

So all I know is that there's differences between groups. There's the bisexuals. And there are lesbians who would be loathe to describe themselves as bisexual because they really prefer women. And there's certainly been talk about women who say if I am suddenly horny it's so much easier to pick up a man than a woman.

So where does all that take you to? Basically it becomes just another variety of what women do in bed. Then why do you think it's such a loaded topic for the community?

Well, there's the personal level. Let's take everybody's worst nightmare: you and your girlfriend are splitting up, and you find out that she's been fucking a man.

When somebody leaves you it's going to hurt like hell if you didn't initiate it. And if they leave you for another person you are going to look at that person and think, "What the fuck do they have that I don't have?" And if it's a man, you're going to say he has a cock, he has heterosexual privilege, and maybe he has money, right?

And if you're a feminist, you're not supposed to give a shit that he has a cock. And you're not supposed to be daunted by his heterosexual privilege; you're just supposed to very critical of it. And I don't know what you're supposed to do about the money, I guess you're not supposed to be intimidated by that either.

Now, if it was another woman that you were left for, you would undoubtedly think of the things that she had that you didn't have. But when it's a man you can bring your whole sense of being gay, your whole sense of being constantly bested by heterosexual society. You can just bring in the whole world with you into your misery, and you also are in a state of feeling embarrassed about even caring about these things because you're not supposed to care. I guess I think that's wrong. It's perfectly understandable for you to question yourself sexually. And it makes perfect sense that you would think all those things in your worst insecurity.

So why does everyone act like it's such a sin that you would feel those things? Maybe I could be sympathetic about what some of the therapists say about low sexual self-esteem. If somebody is just going to go off the deep end because their secret fear is "I don't have a cock and that's why she left me; I'll never have a cock and I'm not sexually as good as a man," what you really need is a big shot in the arm that the lesbian cock is invincible and that your sexual stuff is really powerful and somebody wants it. Every lesbian should just tell herself, "I have the biggest dick in the world" and get off the lies, you know what I mean?

It's just the symbolism of men and what they represent and supposedly what they have that's going to get to you. I guess I'd like is if women would just not be so scared that somebody's going to slap a lawsuit on them for having penis envy in 1988 when they're not supposed to. It's like, who cares?

The other nightmare is that our community is losing numbers or strength, or that the lesbian point of view is being diluted. The reason that hurts is because it feels really great to be surrounded by a lot of people who are really strong — the energy's so thick that we're all gay, we all are committed to women sexually, and our power comes from that. And if you find out a part of your group has had sex with a man, it shakes up your idea of unity.

But part of it is a false sense that we all agree on everything, we're going to do everything the same way, we're all just one big room of lesbianism, right? And you and I have both been in situations where that gets cracked, not necessarily by a lesbian having sex with a man. Actually we are very different. And this person is not a villain, they're just an example of something. And there are other lesbians who will never to go bed with a man whether they're in your political group or not. There really is going to be a variety of sexual choices out there.

What you could do if you wanted to build the sexual strength of your community would be to just keep the curiosity and the adventure and the outspokenness about lesbian sex, keep putting that out there. I mean if we all start getting terrorized by lesbians who have sex with men and stop talking about other sexual issues then that would be a real defeat, that would be a big bummer.

How gay do you have to be to be gay? In your private life your only obligation if you're gay is to live your gay life to the fullest, I suppose. You know, to get as much enrichment as you can out of the gay community and explore what it means to be yourself as much as you can and treasure it.

How much of it do you think has to do with other sexual issues, like bed death?

There are a lot of lesbian couples who are experiencing the so-called bed death but they are not attracted to men. What the fuck are they supposed to do? If we publish something that says, "Look, the reason this is happening is lesbian bed death," but all the women who are in that situation whose sexual desires are wrapped up with women, where do they stand? There's a hell of a lot of those people.

I think if you have sex with men whether you're in a couple or you're not, it's a very individual sexual curiosity or decision or attraction or experiment on your part. And if it coincides with the fact that you're also suffering a boring period in your coupled life, well then, fine, but there's probably a whole group of people that wouldn't do that.

I think the pressure of this whole issue falls most on people who are openly bisexual. From the time I was 15 to about 21, I was militantly bisexual, and I felt like the only such person in the world. There was no bisexual rap group, no bisexual network. I was in Detroit and Long Beach and Kentucky. Can you imagine? I felt very alone, and kind of like the last weirdo on earth.

And I took a women's studies class called The Lesbian. I did my term paper on bisexuality, which was this plea for understanding. You could have heard a pin drop when I read my paper. And the most important feminist in the whole class, the one that everyone looked up to, was the only one who spoke. She said, "How do you avoid hurting lesbians every time you fuck a man?" It was like this arrow, and I just felt so rejected, so miserable. No one has ever been more sorry for themselves than I was at that point. And I didn't know what to do. I mean how could I apologize for enjoying my bisexual life? How could I never have the handy, dandy excuse of having terrible sex with men and so therefore I wouldn't even have to worry about it?

For me, changing from militant bisexual to militant lesbian had to do with the fact that my lesbian sex life finally flowered, so it was much more of a yes to lesbianism and finding lesbians I was attracted to, because I was not attracted to anybody in that goddamned class.

When I moved to San Francisco I met all these exciting different kinds of lesbians. It just blew my mind and I started having by far the best sex I've had to date. And I stopped worrying about it. Then I became aware that I had lesbian friends who had an affair, one night stand, relationship, whatever, with a man. I remember in the beginning I was very shocked, like, "How dare you? You knew perfectly well I was out there on a soap box for bisexuality all those years and you were sneaking around doing this and you didn't say anything, and in fact, you criticized me." And I was hurt.

But now, over a period of time I became infected with the same sensibility as everybody else, which is not to talk about this to people, they won't understand you, you'll be hurt and rejected. And to me, that's ugly, that's a defeat. I wish it was more the kind of vindictiveness that I experienced when I was sticking up for this bisexual kingdom that had to be addressed. That was a break from the kind of hypocrisy that I later discovered in the community, which is so deadly.

And what you brought up when we were talking about the different groups — clearly it's a bigger deal than just bisexuality. There are people needing to have the courage to be openly bisexual, if that's the case. And then I think there's a case for lesbians who have sex with men who would not describe themselves as bisexual. Although it's so much of a self-naming thing, isn't it? Because scientifically, you know, if they brought you into a lab of course, they'd say you're bisexual. That's no question.

And then there's a lesbian-identified bisexual and there's heterosexually-identified bisexuals and there's...

But what does it mean when you're cruising or when you're forming a relationship or when you're speaking to the press? I did all that shit when I was a militant lesbian-identified-political-lesbian-bisexual. It's such a mouthful; you had to be in the inner sanctum to even know what the fuck I was talking about.

I wish the whole thing could come down to earth and be more practical. If you feel like the lesbian community is where you're at and lesbianism is your sexual preference, then you should be able to call yourself a lesbian without saying, "And for five days in the summer of '72 I had a wild affair with a young man in Hawaii." I mean, who gives a shit? You're a lesbian, you know what I mean? And it really doesn't matter if it was five years ago or it was five days ago. So it seems like there should be a more down-to-earthness about it. And a recognition that yeah, this happens.

People think this is the big issue, but we'll see what everyone's into next year. There's a lot of things going on that aren't getting talked about 'cause nobody is identifying it as a major fear.

Like there's that whole criticism of being into butch/femme, that being scared that you aren't gay enough. Isn't that what it comes down to? I hate that. How gay do you have to be to be gay? In your private life your only obligation if you're gay is to live your gay life to the fullest, I suppose. You know, to get as much enrichment as you can out of the gay community and explore what it means to be yourself as much as you can and treasure it.

Well, so you keep going back to your private life. What about the political women who say, "This is political who we're fucking," that this is a betrayal of the lesbian community.

Are we talking about the sort of a social contagion kind of politics? That in some little tear-filled household Betty is leaving Sue for Joe, and even though no one else knows about it, Betty and Sue's friends will know and it will make them feel more insecure, and make them feel frightened, and it's like everybody just gets nervous.

Well, everybody's pretty nervous about this, wouldn't you say? There's a fair level of anxiety when it comes up.

Oh, I think people are nervous 'cause it's a bubble that's about to burst. I mean, how long can you kind of take this state of heightened anxiety? For me, this is like the tension before the fall.

I've certainly experienced the classic case. A friend of mine who was very critical of me when I was a militant bisexual now has two real full-time relationships, one with a man, one with a woman. She identified as a lesbian for a long time, but it's very clear that she has a real fifty-fifty sex life now, and has for two years. And she was very nervous at first to tell her close friends 'cause she was scared that we would all give her the boot. And I don't really know any of us that did. It was like it's fine: you're still our friend, you're the same person, you have not completely changed, you know you're not like this stranger to us.

Sounds like you're describing what straight people will say to a gay person who's coming out to them.

I guess so. I suppose that my friend has experienced some people who don't want to be as close to her anymore. She's not the gay activist she used to be. And I guess I kind of miss her activism.

But what's the fear? Maybe people think it's going spread and the movement would become ten hard-core lesbians left and everybody else would be fucking men and lesbianism will be crushed? I think that's ridiculous. Something much more heavy would have to happen to stem the tide of lesbianism happening and lesbians coming out.

This is just another example of something that doesn't fit the description of lesbian sex that we were all told about in *Off Our Backs* and *Sinister Wisdom* ten, fifteen, twenty years ago. There were so many things wrong with that description.

I think of Margory Nichol's piece on lesbian sexuality in Lesbian Psychologies. *She describes the perfect model of lesbian sex was lying side by side, nobody was on top of each other, you know. If you stroked her breast, she had to stroke your breast —*

Everyone was completely bonkers with that description. It was swallowed so whole by people in search of a sense of righteousness and identity that now everything that contradicts it is like this big ordeal.

I just can't work up a sweat about this. I mean, I'd like to be in a group of lesbians who could comfortably say to each other, "I masturbated to porn last night," and the next girl says, "I fucked George last night for two hours, didn't come, but it was a great fuck,"

(continued on page 11)

DEATH BY PLACEBO

THE SACRIFICIAL LAMBS OF PROTOCOL 019

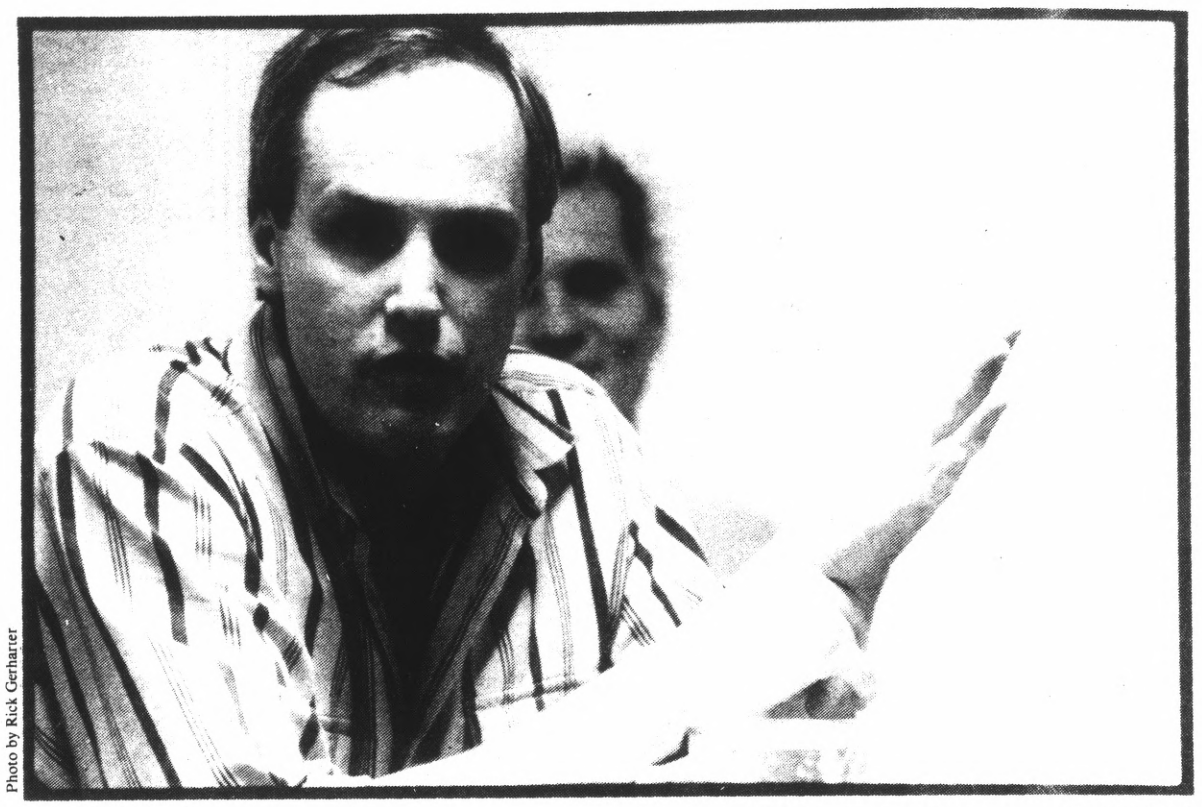

Photo by Rick Gerharter

Martin Delaney of Project Inform hotly contests Protocol 019.

BY TIM KINGSTON

"Fuck them. I didn't agree to donate my body to science, if that is what they are doing, just sitting back doing nothing with me waiting until I get PCP or something," snapped one man after discovering he is on a placebo in Protocol 019, the first major trial of AZT on asymptomatic seropositive individuals in the country. "Now we are talking about my life. I am not some guinea pig just willing to die for science.... There is no reason just not to treat people who are facing terminal illness, to have a placebo group."

The man chose to remain anonymous for fear of getting thrown off the trial. He is taking dextran sulphate, but remains in the placebo group.

Double-blind Placebo trials are at the center of one of the thorniest debates of the AIDS/HIV disease epidemic. Two years ago nineteen people with AIDS were on placebo died to prove AZT (now known as Zidovudine) is effective in halting HIV viral reproduction. Now Protocol 019 is underway, and this time over 1,000 HIV positive individuals will be taking a placebo for the *next three years* to see if AZT is effective in treating asymptomatic HIV disease.

According to a copy of the drug protocol obtained by *Coming Up!*, the "primary endpoints" of Protocol 019 will be from when someone enters the study "until the onset of AIDS, ARC or death". Patients who develop severe ARC, any opportunistic infection (OI), or who suffer serious toxicity due to the drug will taken off the study.

"They are guilty of institutionalized murder," charges Ric Graham, a member of San Francisco's People with AIDS Coalition. "Their obvious acceptance of the death of their research subjects show a real lack of understanding about what the real importance of research is. That also diminishes the response of the community applying to be part of the research protocol. Who's gonna be a part of something that may make them ill because they have a placebo?"

The National Institute for Allergies and Infectious Disease's (NIAID) sponsored trial is split into three sections; the placebo control group, a low dose group given 500 mg of Zidovudine per day, and a high dose group taking 1,500 mg per day. Both the high and the low dose wings of the trial will be compared against the placebo group to determine which, if either, is most effective dosage against HIV.

Researchers insist placebo comparisons in drug protocols are the only way to guarantee solid data on experimental HIV treatments so they can be released for general distribution.

"Placebos allow us to answer the question of whether or not any dose of AZT is better than no AZT," asserts Dr. Paul Volbarding, director of SF General's Ward 86 and principal investigator in the protocol. "It's not clear that benefit we see in the treatment of advanced HIV disease will be felt by those people with early HIV disease... a placebo allows us to answer conclusively, to everyone, whether or not the drug works."

People with AIDS rage against placebo trials. They say it is unethical to allow anyone to develop AIDS or ARC for the sake of FDA drug approval. "It's written right here — here in the (anticipated) primary outcome of this study (there) is a comparison of the occurrence of AIDS and severe ARC between the placebo and the drug groups," fumed Martin Delaney, cofounder of Project Inform. "Once again we come back to the need to have people progress to AIDS, ARC or die in order to make this study work — So how do we do that? Well, we keep 'em off of real drug for three years if we couldn't get enough of 'em to achieve statistical significance in one year."

In the six months since Protocol 019 began, 1,800 participants have enrolled in the trial nationally, 160 of them are in San Francisco. Investigators hope to recruit 3,200 nationally, and an additional 100 more in San Francisco. The protocol concludes in 1991, unless it's interrupted and stopped by the Data Safety Monitoring Board, an independent panel of scientists and researchers who review the data at least every six months. If mortality rates in any group of the trial participants dramatically increase, as in the very first Zidovudine trial, the code will be broken and the trial halted.

The Color of Money: Cold

The ostensible reason for 019 is simply to investigate and confirm the efficacy of low dose Zidovudine for asymptomatic HIV disease, but the crinkly crisp of dollar bills is rustling in the background for anyone who cares to listen.

With a $10,000 a year price tag, two very powerful lobbies from opposite sides of the aisle are following the trial with intense interest: the insurance industry and Burroughs Wellcome. Terry Beswick of The Healing Alternative Project charges, "If they can show that AZT is helpful for the one or two million people infected with HIV, then that is a huge market for Burroughs Wellcome for AZT. That's the bottom line. It's the money."

Kathy Bartlett, Burroughs Welcome public affairs officer, politely declined comment, stating, "The company never speculates on

> "Once again we come back to the need to have people progress to AIDS, ARC or die in order to make this study work. So how do we (the investigators) do it? Well, we keep 'em off real drugs for three years if we couldn't get enough of 'em to achieve statistical significance in one year."

that kind of thing. We don't make those kinds of predictions."

Even *with* FDA approval of Zidovudine, the insurance industry's response to reimbursement ranges from lukewarm to reluctant. Blue Cross, Blue Shield, and Metropolitan Life all said they follow FDA guidelines to guide their reimbursement policies — an individual must have a T-cell count of below 200 and a history of cytologically-confirmed PCP or other opportunistic infections.

Without FDA guidelines, the insurers try to avoid paying for prophylaxis, or for drugs they can define as experimental, including Zidovudine for asymptomatic seropositive people.

Inquires by *Coming Up!* about reimbursements for Zidovudine outside the guidelines made the insurers tense. Replies ranged from vows to handle such claims on a case by case basis to apologetic refusals. John Rogers, public relations director for Blue Cross in San Francisco, says the company does not cover "prophylaxis until approved by the FDA for that purpose" unless specifically covered in the contract.

Volbarding argues adamantly that that is precisely why he wants the protocol to go ahead: "We want to come away with absolutely compelling evidence that the drug works. If it does work we won't see the insurance companies and medicaid... shirking (their) responsibility to pay for the cost of health care."

Prophylaxis Showdown

Dr. Alan Levin, founder of the Positive Action Clinic for HIV patients, stumbled upon Protocol 019 in July when a man on placebo showed up in Levin's office with a T-cell count of 130. "I said hello, and he handed me this lab slip from UCSF and started crying. He said they won't let me have aerosol pentamidine (a widely accepted PCP prophylaxis). I looked at it, looked at him, and I said, 'I don't believe you. Nobody would do that!' It drove me nuts!"

Levin has been raising a stink about the trial ever since, and now the situation around prophylaxis may be changing. The version of the protocol obtained by *Coming Up!*, dated July 5, still forbids the use of all PCP chemoprophylaxis, but Dr. Volbarding says, "We are working to modify the trial to take account of PCP prophylaxis for those on a lower T-cell count."

So far, it is not clear at what T-cell levels prophylaxis with pentamidine will be allowed on the trial. Dr. Volbarding says he considers the issue open to discussion. Other exceptions or alterations of the protocol would depend on whether the alternative treatment interferes with the Zidovudine.

Placebos: A Necessary Evil?

"I think (the trial) is comparable to the Tuskeegee experiments," charges Beswick. Those experiments involved providing black men with a placebo for syphilis instead of treating them so doctors could monitor disease progression. Although that is absolutely not the intention of this trial, critics feel it is an apt comparison.

Dr. Earl Shelphs, an ethicist and executive director and senior fellow at the Foundation for Interfaith Research and Ministry in Houston, commented, "My basic concern with this study is whether it is morally appropriate to place people with compromised immune systems in a three year study which proscribes the use of any prophylaxis or antiviral drugs that might be issued with the drugs of the study."

Delaney says recent epidemiological data suggests the viral incubation period is between seven and eight years, thus the longer the study, the more likely it is that participants on placebo will develop symptomatic infections. With a trace of ice in his voice, Delaney suggested researchers should be well aware of that information "and are probably counting on (it) to make the study's results show up. They wouldn't have much of a study on their hands if nobody got sick during the three-year period!"

What really irks critics of the trial is the prohibition against alternative treatments for fear of contaminating the results. The protocol reads "systematic antiviral agents, biologic response modifiers... and other experimental medications should not be used." More ominously than that, the document threatens,

"Subjects should be advised that the validity of the trial and *their continued inclusion* (is endangered) by the use of potentially anti-viral and immune modulating treatments including many 'alternative' treatments."

Delaney argues the primary goal of Protocol 019 is research and not patient care: "The humane thing to do here is take all possible steps to prevent people from moving into that category of full blown AIDS. I find (the placebo) aspect of the study to be in direct contradiction with the Hippocratic oath. I'm beginning to wonder whether researchers can also be doctors, or whether there is an intrinsic contradiction there."

That does not sit well with Volbarding: "No. There is no conflict at all. Medical care is unimpeded by participating in this. It's just unapproved treatments we are trying to withhold... I don't see the issue." In fact, Volbarding suggested the opposite: participants may get better treatment by participating, because when treatment *is* delivered according to trail guidelines it will be swift.

"Yes, there is risk," acknowledges Volbarding. He realizes a certain percent of those on the trial will experience disease progression, but says, "No I don't think it is unethical, because we have designed it so that the trial is monitored closely."

Professor of statistics, Lucien Le Cam at U.C. Berkeley — who has done work for Positive Action — argues placebo trials are "about the only way to get answers that are reliable, otherwise you get all sorts of psychological effects you cannot ignore." But, he cautions, placebo trials are very difficult to carry out, especially when the drugs have noticeable side effects, "When a patient guesses they are getting the real drug, who knows the effect on their psychology?"

Dr. Paul Beninger, FDA medical officer for the division of anti-viral products, says critics of the study fail to acknowledge those on a protocol drug are also subject to risk from the treatment itself. He says no one knows what will happen to people taking the drug for long periods of time, "We don't know if a patient is truly benefiting from AZT, versus the risk of (bone marrow) suppression and other side effects."

When Volbarding was informed of the ire of protocol subjects and PWAs surrounding placebo trials — who face not only the uncertain efficacy of new drugs, but also the chance of receiving a useless placebo — he replied, "I understand the concern, but until somebody comes up with a better alternative (to placebo trials) I don't know what the answer is."

Pass the Placebo and Just Give Me The Blood Work

People with AIDS, activists and others outside the established AIDS industry insist they do have a "better alternative." They contest that blood markers and historical controls are an equally valid database for following disease progression and remission. That claim is hotly disputed by the medical establishment.

Dr. Levin dismisses the need for the Protocol 019 in the first place. He, and other activists, allege the data available on Zidovudine and HIV disease is more than enough to prove drug efficacy in asymptomatic HIV disease. Levin quipped a comparison: "If somebody did a placebo study on penicillin and gonorrhea today. I think that would be unjustified."

Two or three years ago Levin says he would have agreed that disease progression could not be studied in the laboratory, but now, "We can do that. We have the diagnostic tools." Levin excitedly rattled off the blood markers he says can be used to detect HIV disease progression before the development of clinical symptoms, rapping the desk as he named each one.

Dr. Andrew Moss, UCSF associate professor of epidemiology and international health, gave similar data at the Stockholm AIDS conference. He found "strong predictive effects" indicting progression to disease most clearly with Beta 2 microglobulin, followed by packed cell volume, p24 antiganaemia, proportion of T-4 cells and absolute number of T-4 cells.

The 019 study includes several of the blood markers as minor endpoints, but not as major endpoints e.g. sufficient to remove a person from the trial. Volbarding and Constance Wofsy, nurse at SF General, explained at a recent meeting with protocol subjects that blood markers are useful to track populations, but are unreliable in individual cases. Volbarding argued clinical results are the most important proof of success: "If dextran works and doesn't drop p24, well, who cares! *As long as it works*."

The FDA is now asking all protocols to include data on blood markers. Beninger says the FDA is investigating the use of surrogate blood markers to define disease progression. The use of blood markers would not eliminate the alleged need for placebo trials; it would merely render them far less dangerous.

Another frequently proposed alternative to placebos are the substitution of historical controls. The idea is for researchers to use the medical records of people with AIDS who were not treated as a control group for new drugs and treatments. Dr, Shelphs was only one of many who made that suggestion, "Given the amount of data that has been gathered over time, it appears to me we have sufficient evidence to construct a historical control."

Terry Beswick says Volbarding agreed in a meeting to consider historical controls in future trials. When questioned on the topic by *Coming Up!*, Volbarding was distinctly unenthusiastic. He questioned at what stage of the epidemic such records would be culled from — the early days, the midpoint, now? He asked, what if people now behave in ways that would alter transmission and viral activity? He asked, has the virus mutated sufficiently to alter data results? What about cofactors? "The question is can you get believable data from historical data? And the answer almost certainly is, you cannot; so a placebo arm is necessary."

Volbarding's tepid reaction to historical trials was matched by equally unenthusiastic comments from FDA officials and Professor LeCam at Berkeley.

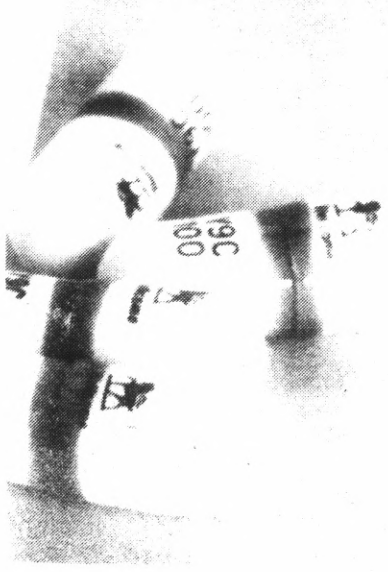

Photo by Rink

Informed Consent?

The informed consent form (IC) should give general information about the trial; where else the drug is available, what the side effects may or may not be, what benefits exist and what alternatives to Zidovudine exist.

Dr. Volbarding says the IC goes through the wringer before it is approved, "We look at the consent form very carefully. It is reviewed by the National Institutes for Health (NIH), the FDA, with ethicists at every level, and it has been approved with variations at 35 AIDS study centers each with ethical input... We feel very confident the IC form does a good job of outlining the risks and benefits."

That is not the conclusion drawn by other who have reviewed the document. Critics allege the document is unclear and ambiguous. They say the form implies that Zidovudine for asymptomatic individuals is not available. Beswick argues, "That is really not true. You can get a doctor to perscribe you AZT just on the basis of being seropositive." (Getting it paid for, of course, is another matter entirely.) They note the form says being on the trail may decrease or increase one's chance disease progression. "That's false," says Delaney, because it implies either the placebo or the drug can affect disease progression. He says the evidence is clear, "The use of AZT results in a decreased likelihood of the occurrence of AIDS or OI's."

Finally the form reads, "Even if you are in the group that gets placebo this won't be worse than not participating and may be better than being in one of the other groups if they are found to be more harmful than helpful." (That's OK — I had to read that twice too.) Attorney Ben Shatz of National Gay Rights Advocates, translates: that implies there is nothing else that can be done for seropositives so they have have nothing to lose by getting on the placebo, "whereas in fact there is increasing evidence that there are other options."

Those other options include the Buyers Club, THAP, Positive Action or other alternative treatments. The consent form does not mention *any* alternatives. It merely states, Zidovudine "is the only drug currently effective against HIV."

Volbarding accurately asserts if all the necessary information were included the form would be the size of the protocol itself. Critics accuse the document of going a wee bit far in the opposite direction.

This is important in view of who is joining the trial, says Delaney. The new trail subjects are less familiar with AIDS issues, "By nature people tend to start becoming experts on this when they start getting sick. Generally when you are healthy don't want to know." Delaney thus argues the burden of proof for the consent form lies especially heavily on the authors. Volbarding is convinced the information supplied is sufficient for an informed decision. Delaney disagrees, "I am afraid the that the problem here is that if they were to tell the truth in this IC document nobody in their right mind would sign up for the study."

The Patient's Patience is Wearing Thin

"Murder by Placebo!" declares the infuriated flyer handed out at a recent ACT UP meeting. The slogan sums up the anger and frustration felt by some of the participants in the placebo trials.

Dr. Ken Charles, a clinical psychologist whose clientele is largely gay, including a large number of seropositive individuals, calls the decision to join 019 a "risk gain ratio, (they are) hoping they will gain something out of it — a certain portion of the risk they are willing to take by taking different compounds, is for altruistic purposes — but when it is offered to them in such a way that their health is completely disregarded and they are not offered anything as a benefit there is of course an angry reaction and of course with all the years of oppression, and Reagan administration type tactics around AIDS; people's fury is easily tapped."

Some patients are taking matters into their own hands. They are testing their protocol drugs to see if they are on the placebo. They are taking alternative therapies, sometimes telling their clinicians, sometimes not. In some cases they are dropping out of studies altogether after finding they are on placebo.

It is not clear what percentage of the trial participants are breaking the protocol code. Fred Ponder, co-founder of Positive Action, estimates that about ten of the firm's 600 patients were also involved in the placebo trail. When *Coming Up!* contacted a laboratory in Sacramento where one protocol member had his drug tested, the director said only a few other subjects on 019 had made the same request. Another lab in San Francisco ceased testing for AZT after being contacted by the press.

In New York, ACTUP member Mark Harrington says, "People are very reluctant to get on this trial because they are either afraid of AZT or don't want to be on placebo." Harrington said two of the four people attending a clinical trial meeting at one 019 site said they were testing their drug to see if are on placebo.

In San Francisco, Terry Beswick says, "People are cheating, definitely... The plain fact is that all these people are going to Project Inform meetings and Healing Alternatives meetings and figuring out what else they can do, whether it is their diet, vitamins or AL-721."

Volbarding is dismayed by the prospect that participants are joining the trial to get the drug, and if they are on placebo either dropping out or start taking other drugs at the same time. "That would be the worst situation if we end up at the end of a trial like this with a non-conclusive result." Volbarding emphasized research trails are not for everyone and noted that other alternative treatments are available for those who just want to get drugs.

The critics have a different idea. Beswick suggests, "You have to design the trail so that it is human and workable for people and they are not expected to be sacrificial lambs."

"The research process is driven by the need to license drugs, not treat patients," argues Delaney, "What is our object here is it to put more drugs on the market for the sake of corporate America to make it's money or is it to treat patients, and which criteria do we adhere to in running the research?"

Lesbians...

(continued from page 9)

and the next person says, "I got whipped and tickled," and then somebody else says, "Oh, me and my girlfriend love to go around Union Square making out in front of people and freaking them out," and then the next person says, "I cross dressed and went to the gay jerk off show," and then somebody else says, "I had an affair with a faggot last summer," and on and on. I would like that kind of Bohemian tolerance, without anyone in the group going, you did *what*? and ripping off their lesbian badge.

I could very much hear all those things from women and look at all of them and go, they're all dykes. That would be my ideal. And then we could all accept those various images as being lesbian, lesbian lives, and lesbian sex, and you know, get on with it.

I mean, it's difficult for me to talk to you about this because I think, Jesus Christ, I'm a professional homosexual. That's my life's work and my life's interest. In a way it's like, forget heterosexuality, I've carved out my career. But it's difficult to feel like people will think that you let them down or that you're not as reliable a lesbian to them as once before. I want people to feel that they can rely on my discussions of lesbian sex and my interest and my insight and so on, but at the same time, part of my interest and insight is wanting people to not be so scared of their differences.

What about the lesbian who goes, "Well, Jesus Christ, I really don't want to go to bed with men, I never look at them, I have no interest. What do you mean everybody's going out with men? *I'm not.*" You know? It's so absurd. Because there are millions of people like that and there are millions of people like the woman who has had one percent of her sexual life with men, and there's another million people who've had all those categories. And the intolerance around sex is so gigantic that, unlike food, where you're perfectly willing to

(continued on page 19)

Correction: The June *Coming Up!* article "Every Day I'm Amazed to Wake Up: AIDS/ARC and Homelessness," by Dan Bellm incorrectly described Geoff Froner's work. he is the co-director of a health outreach team, working with public health nurse Stefan Rowniak to provide social service referrals and health care to HIV-infected IVDUS. His "Beat" is the Tenderloin and South of Market, not the Haight. Writer Dan Bellm apologizes for neglecting to cite Froner's paper, "AIDS and Homelessness," just published in the Journal of Psychoactive Drugs (Je-Jy, '88), as a source for the information in his article.

MRS. CHOLESTEROL'S NEW ORLEANS ADVENTURE

BY MRS. CHESTER CHOLESTEROL

Keep our nation on the track, one step forward, three steps back," I muttered as I tottered through the New Orleans terminal with my bags of frilly and uncomfortable garments. A young man caught sight of my "I'd Rather Be Ironing" button and asked if I was in town for the Republicans.

"Oh, my goodness," I replied, and handed him the latest Ladies Against Women Ladyfesto. As I continued down the concourse, I could hear him reading little bits of the flier to himself.

"Americans Against Civil Liberties and Unions? Homophobes for Individual Restraint? National Association for the Advancement of Rich People?"

Alas, I could not stop to explain anything to the young man, as I had to attend to the future of the country. Indeed, I seemed to be in the right place. "New Orleans: Host to the Future" signs were everywhere. Ladies Against Women, or LAW, sent delegations to both the Democratic and the Republican convention cities this summer.

I went forth on my own to the Republicans', determined to form a New Orleans chapter of LAW (with the unfortunate name of NOLAW) to help in any way we could with some tasteful and ladylike tributes to the platform. Into the teaming thicket of unmentionable pleasure that is New Orleans I stepped, and my little glasses fogged right up.

Republican Ladies are ill-suited for such an environment, by virtue of their usually lovely attire and perfect hair. Of course, I quickly counted myself among them, though I was there to cover the event for this little organ — excuse me, that is, this cheerful, positive newsletter, *Looking Up*.

When the Prez Comes Marching In

The first popular event of the week for me was the arrival of the President, and I had to rush through my morning activities to be ready for him. First I had to stop a pesky parade by the National Orgasm of Women, though. The dear misguided femunists were parading through the French Quarter. They were all dressed in white like some hideously casual flock of brides, with nary a groom in sight.

The young women (and I use the word advisedly — there were no ladies!) yelled in a most unbecoming way about the ERA.

I shook my finger at the girls on the wagons and they waved back in a very unrepentant way, poor dears. "That's the Equal Restrooms Amendment, dears. You'd have to learn to relieve yourselves standing up!" They giggled rudely. I hurried to catch them again at the end of their route at a statue of Joan of Arc. The symbolism was a little confusing, but she did have a suit of armor which featured trousers.

I chided them some more, and commented on their disgraceful tomboy attire, with the exception of a tiny accent of very feminine pink, on little triangular buttons, which seemed to be quite popular. A kind gal gave me some stickers and suggested I help decorate the city with them.

"Pink not pinko!" I commented. Some of the gals were impressed, and actually decided to form a chapter of NOLAW. They promised to go home and work on their wardrobes, as all true change comes from the outside.

I put my placard aside and scurried over to the hall where President Ronald the First was due to arrive. The event was open to the public. And the public was a mixed bag, formal and informal, delegates and local people, only a few of whom had on elephant bonnets or other expressions of patriotism. We all milled and

Photo by Patsy Lynch

Anxious Republicans strain to hear the prez while contemplating their next chance to nab one of Virginia Cholesterol's special SDI chocolate chip cookies. Quick, spot the imposter.

stared at one another's bosoms, where our various credentials were suspended.

I circled around and spoke to a tall gentleman with Alternate Delegate tags. "What attracts you to Republicans?" I politely asked.

"I feel that black Americans belong in both parties. If one party takes you for granted and the other writes you off, what have you got?"

"A difference between the parties?" It was just a guess. He frowned, and I knew mine was not the right answer.

I wandered around and spoke to a foursome of local Republican Hostess Committee gals attired in red, white and blue vests.

"Excuse me," I asked, "but could you explain why women don't seem to give GOPs a chance?"

"Well, we know that we haven't had the best platform for women's issues, but we've been best for the economy. So it's important to get in here and start to raise some of those domestic issues. And I think it's happening. We'll get the women's vote."

"Well," I timidly continued, "I come from the radical fringe territory of the San Francisco-Berkeley axis, and in my area there is talk of gay rights. Have you met any while organizing this Convention?"

"Oh, the gays. Well, in New Orleans the gays are professionals, well educated. Very, very dear friends of my husband and mine, prominent people, doctors and lawyers, not like these outsiders from New York," she said hesitantly, "We very seldom have a problem with gays or with demonstrations."

"Could you put all of our names in your paper?" asked her friend, Catherine Gaudin.

"It might be cut by my editor," I warned them, "but go ahead and spell your names. And they spelled them out: Mary Catherine Regan, Liz Moreci, and Barbara Keen.

"Tell your editor we are the Republican women, the entrepreneurial women who will change the party," said one of the gang. "He mustn't cut us out."

"Who," I ventured, "the candidate?"

Before they could reply, I realized my mistake and confessed quickly, "Sorry, but my editor is a she."

Then I bid them farewell. I milled about and ended up over by the entrance where the President was to arrive. As he came into the hall, with music playing and throngs cheering, everyone pressed forward a bit. Suddenly, chanting and shouting errupted, and I rushed

Photo by Patsy Lynch

through the tasteful guests to find the activity.

Some young people in disrespectful t-shirts and signs with slogans about AIDS-GATE and Murder were being whisked away by the police and the secret service team. And very excited proud Young Americans for Freedom in dark suits wre boasting that they were victorious.

"They were commie toting faggots. Commie toting faggots," cried a young gentleman who appeared to be new to the manly art of shaving.

"Could you repeat that," asked a journalist.

The young fellow looked confused, took a deep breath and interrupted himself to say, "They came in here with signs, the Republicans here had to look at signs defacing the President."

"Excuse me sir, but what did the signs say?" I asked.

He hesitated and mumbled, "Well, they were clearly not Republican. We removed them. They were commie signs."

Some nosy person asked the fellow's name and he said that he was John Fleischman, Los Angeles Executive Director of the Young Americans for Freedom. I was impressed by his very authoritative title.

I wondered how he knew that they were communist signs. Perhaps he was referring to the suffix "-gate" at the end of the word on the signs. Like "-off" and "-nic," it is an indicator of the Soviet payroll. And some of them had a sign which read "Thousands Dead from AIDS — Where Was George?" Questions are also very commie faggot. Which perhaps explained how uncomfortable I was feeling. I decided to leave before our President did and get some air.

Groveling At Phyllis' Fete

The next event on my list was the "Good Times" party at the Museum of Art, hostessed by Phyllis Schlafly of the Eagle Forum. Her guests included Mr. Bork, Mr. Kemp, Mr. Grahm, Mr. Bennet and Jeanne Kirkpatrick.

The local hosts had decorated the museum facade with a colorful flag done in powdered chemicals on the center strip lawn, flag motif paint on the antique lamp poles, huge welcome banners, and a sculpture of the GOP logo. There to spoil it all in the center of the media strip were the same motley crew of chanters that had been hustled out of the Convention Center hall by the Young Americans for Freespeech, I think that was their group. I'm sure I wrote it down somewhere.

This time the Act Uppity crew were chanting, "Bush AIDS Policy — No cure, no care, no comment."

I asked a lady on the steps if she would comment. She said she was a dental nurse from Hawaii, and a delegate, and that she thought every disease needs a quarantine, and that we are spending all that we can. She was quite irked by the demonstrators.

After the speeches, wherein Education Secretary William Bennet proclaimed that Phyllis was "carrying the flag for Western Civilization" and Phil Grahm thanked her for Star Wars lobbying, I found myself mingling among her adoring guests. A smiling lady tastefully attired in a lovely red frock tapped on my shoulder as I passed by.

"Look at this." She unfurled a lovely placard reading Reagan for Vice President. It was adorned with the autographs of Jack Kemp, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Robert Bork and Phyllis Schlafly. "Oh my goodness," I blurted. "That just isn't true about the vice. He didn't know about the contra coke dealers. And we aren't supposed to mention, dear. Not here."

She suddenly needed to have a second tidbit of cornfed catfish and slipped away. Meanwhile, I had caught the eye of a lady, also in a lovely red frock, with an eagle medal on her bosom.

"Oh, my goodness," I exclaimed, "an actual Ego forum member! Now, how long have you been an eaglette?"

"I was at the meeting where it all started."

"A member of the founding chapter?"

"Well, I don't know if it was a chapter. It was the meeting where they announced that it would be called Eagle Forum. Mrs. Dodd Kilney knows everything to tell you..."

An elegant lady turned with a practiced smile. She proceeded to tell me how she is Phyllis's top assistant, and how much meaning Phyllis has in her life.

"Phyllis is my idol," breathed the lady who accompanies her everywhere. "She means more to me than anyone in this world."

"She does?" I was flabbergasted.

"Yes. The three people I love most in the world are my mother, my husband and Phyllis Schlafly."

"I'm so glad you said the M-word and the H-word," I blurted. "It prevents some ugly confusion. Now, what about all of these uppity Republican women who are just here for the economic policy and believe that they will make the party more liberal on women's issues by being here?"

"Oh, no. We are winning them over. The platform speaks for itself. The most important thing for a woman is her family value system, and we understand this. They'll come over to our side."

At that moment she was swept away in a flounce of crinoline and red chiffon, as a true southern belle with white gloves floated between us.

I followed the dress across the hall. It was worn by Mrs. Mel Schiro, who was delighted to talk to me. Her speech was as flowing as her gown. She even stooped a little to get closer to my tiny microphone, which was totally unnecessary and a bit forward.

"I wear the gown because it's nice. It's just nice. If a lady wears one of these costumes she should be prepared to talk to people about our city.

"Those protesters, poor dears, they don't know how much I love them. I don't want to see anyone suffer from AIDS. It's a terrible thing. I'm doing everything I can for them. It's just that they have a moral problem. And I love the gay, some of the gay people. They are fine people, but they can't help it. It's like mental illness. They need our compassion."

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Long-Term AIDS Survivors Discuss Their Techniques

BY MIKE ALCALAY

Despite a donation charge of 10 bucks, the long and narrow room in the old Mission Dolores convent was more than filled by 150 people. They were mostly gay, white, youngish, and middle-class men — their presence a reaction to the doom-and-gloom of the mainstream media and the negligible response by the medical establishment — and they came looking for any kind of hope for their HIV infections. Similar crowds can be seen filling the large and small rooms of the Metropolitan Community Church in the Castro on any given Tuesday evening. In this case, it was high-tech: the sound system was magnificent, complete with 4 monstrous loud-speakers, a technician at the audio mixer, and another on video.

This was the first gathering sponsored by Project Survival, the brain child of Kent Bulloch, an energetic balding man in his 50's with a kind of messianic zeal that somehow makes you think a little bit of a teleevangelist. Bulloch is newly arrived on the San Francisco AIDS scene from Hawaii where he recently lost a young friend to the epidemic. That death he says has been the driving force for his present venture.

Bulloch wants to be a "front-line AIDS lobbyist" and bring together for information-sharing all those poeple with HIV infections, especially the growing number of long-time AIDS survivors. His answer is Project Survival.

Judging by Project Survival's first forum last month, the AIDS information that Bulloch wants to share has a definite spin to it. It's well-grounded in the New Age treatments and therapies that seem to take root and flourish so well under the California sun. But can anyone truly be against an organically grown macrobiotic diet, visualization, and an occasional Ayurveda meditation with pH balancing? Can anyone really be against such terms as self-empowerment and attitudinal healing? There's an old medical maxim that says when a disease has no cure, then there are thousands of "cures."

The evening's headliner, Laurence Badgeley M.D., along with his book "Healing AIDS Naturally" ($15.95), fit right into this mold. It's all a matter of non-toxic foods, some herbals, and meditation. Badgeley's attitude about AIDS puts all the blame for the epidemic on an immune-suppressing lifestyle. His patients seem to have all been marathon sex and drug fast-laners. This rather retrograde conception of AIDS causation, reminiscent of an earlier period in the epidemic, says nothing about those drug-free, somewhat monogamous gay types, those spouses of hemophiliacs, those happily married blood-transfused, and the list goes on.

Also present for the session were some AIDS "cures." For example, Wil Garcia and George Melton have been taking their message of AIDS survival across the country in a Winnebago (soon out also in book form.) These two have come to love their virus, some say even to the point of advocating non-safe sex. In place of the hard, scientific studies we get the random, anecdotal stories and "samples of one."

A bit of an antidote to the evening was provided by Christian Hearn, an ex-Green Beret, who now runs the Wedge Program that brings AIDS education into the high schools. He's been going around the country as a representative for Surgeon General Koop and was in fine form talking about eating pizza with anchovies and Haagen-Dazs and adding, "I know this is not the room I should say this in."

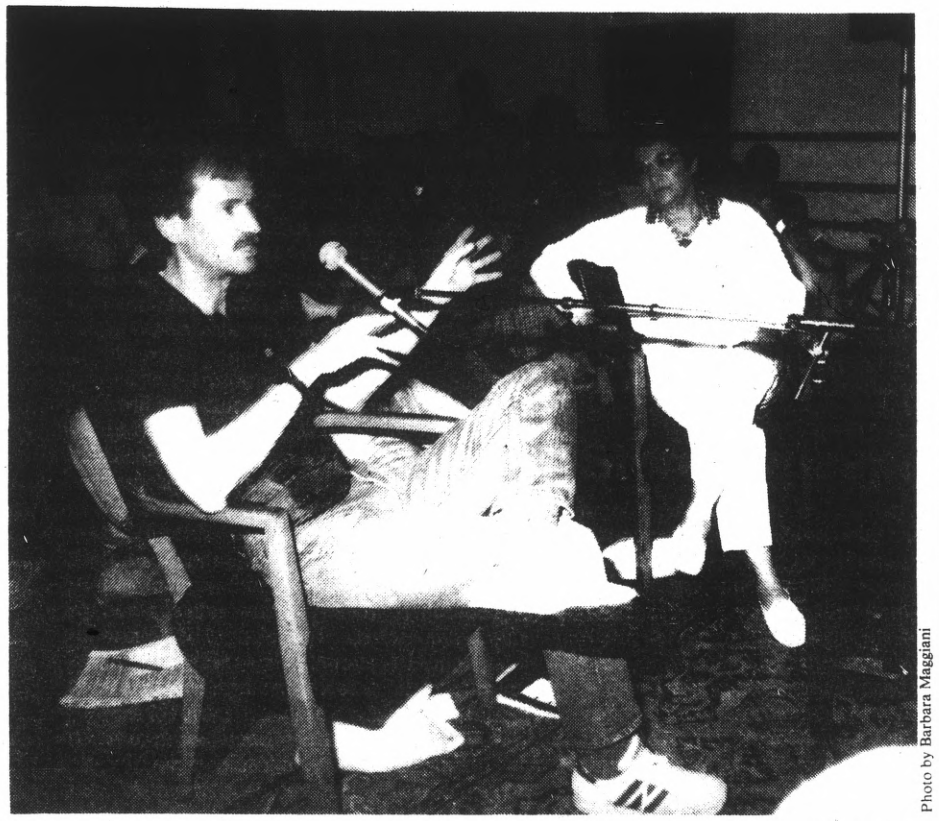


Photo by Barbara Maggiani

What does Bulloch want? For one, he wants to set up what he calls a National AIDS-Survivor Network in which anyone can make direct contact with what Bulloch coins a PRA (Peson Recovering from AIDS) and get the true story on how he/she conquered AIDS.

It's basically a "976" sort of arrangement using phone or mail connections. One hook-up is called an "information session" and costs $15. Project Survival takes the first $5 "for administrative costs" and the rest goes to someone called an "information helper."

It's not like there isn't already a National PWA Coalition in place. It was started several years ago in New York City by people like long-living Michael Callen (who refers to his AIDS as "a cosmic kick in the ass.") Rick Graham, the president of San Francisco's PWA Coalition, has lots of questions about Bulloch's AIDS-Survivor Network. For him the program lacks any kind of quality control on the type of AIDS information being disseminated. He says that since it's an income-producing venture, everything is based on who can bring in the most money through the phone calls. And he thinks that Project Survival's "long-term survivor" is, by definition, anyone in Bulloch's program.

Bulloch wants a network, he wants a hot-line, he wants a newsletter, and he also wants corporate funding. If this all sounds vaguely familiar, it's because we're already living in the middle of a world-class AIDS community. People come from all over the globe to look at the organizing and networking we've been doing here for years.

Tim Wolfred of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation agrees that any approach to AIDS that reduces stress and adds quality to our lives has value. He himself has had success with acupuncture. But Wolfred wants the evidence that these approaches really work, i.e., we need to start longitudinal studies that follow people using these non-traditional therapies. Wolfred thinks it would be very easy to do here in the Bay Area.

Other organizations like Project Inform and John James' widely read and respected "AIDS Treatment News," do a great job in keeping us informed about the newest and most cost-effective treatment and therapy strategies. And there are now more than 20 cities that have buyers' clubs for easier access to the latest experimental AIDS drugs. Terry Beswick, director of San Francisco's Healing Alternatives Foundation, thinks the greatest problem in the Bay Area is getting information out and communicating with those who are newly diagnosed. He says that things in San Francisco are already crazy with so many different groups working around AIDS and that it can be very confusing to the uninitiated.

Does San Francisco need still another AIDS organization? Sure, why not. The more the merrier.

Devastating Statewide Poll Results For Proposition 102 Opponents

BY BRETT McDONNELL

August was an eventful and rather scary month on the AIDS initiatives front. The first statewide poll on November's initiatives showed over 70 percent of likely voters supporting Propositions 96 and 102. AIDS activists scrambled to up the ante in Californians Against 102, while organizing against 96 still lags.

By now any regular reader of the gay press should know how frightening 102 and 96 are. Proposition 102 would close all anonymous HIV test sites, cripple volunteer recruitment for AIDS research, and waste millions of dollars on ineffectual contact tracing. Prop 96 forces testing of merely suspected sex offenders and may allow testing of practically anyone who comes into contact with police, firefighters, or emergency health providers. Unfortunately, most California voters are not regular readers of the gay press.

The only faint ray of hope in the California Poll results was that the question asked on 102 focused simply on reporting of HIV results, ignoring other elements of the complex measure. Still, this is a key part that the Yes on 102 campaign is likely to stress, and as Dana Van Gorder, Northern California staff coordinator for Californians Against 102, says about HIV reporting, "I think that on its face that idea has enormous appeal to people."

In short, a disastrous measure is well on its way to becoming law. At a fundraising reception for the campaign, San Mateo Supervisor Tom Nolan, a co-chair of the campaign's Steering Committee, said, "We're in a war, and you simply can't choose to sit out a battle. We're going to have to give more, and we're going to have to do more."

Organizers originally planned to raise about $500,000 to defeat 102. Following the poll results, they have upped that to $1 million. Northern California is responsible for raising at least $350,000 of that. Says Van Gorder, "I'm comfortable that there is about $255,000 that's pretty firm, but kicking it up to $350,000 is another matter." On this, as with the effort to get an AIDS tax credit initiative first on November's ballot and then on the 1990 ballot — an effort which failed on both counts — Northern California is so far doing much better than Southern California. Given the part of the state responsible for these initiatives in the first place, thoughts of seccession are understandable at this point.

The campaign up here is planning on setting up many house parties to bring in more money and volunters. "We need other people to use their lists," Van Gorder says.

Pat Christen of the AIDS Foudantion also notes, "We are seeing AIDS service agencies getting involved, something that's unprecedented." The statewide doctors and nurses organizations are speaking out against 102, as are many public health officials. Labor, church, and minority organizations are all being contacted.

Senator Pete Wilson recently joined those opposing 102. His statement is important. With Rep. William Dannemeyer behind it, 102 has had strong support within the Republican Party. Wilson's opposition makes it less likely that the Party will publicly work for 102. The Governor has not yet taken a position. He tends to take positions on initiatives late in campaigns. Deukmejian is a friend of Dannemeyer, so his opposition is far from assured, unlike the situation with Props 64 and 69.

The anti-102 campaign is likely to concentrate on a few key points. Says Christen, "I think what we'll need to focus on is the fact that anonymous testing will be abolished. Especially in rural areas, that will drive the disease underground. Secondly, we need to focus on the costs of implementing these programs." Her rough calculation for the cost of reporting those who test positive is $1 billion.

Pat Norman, candidate for Supervisor and a long time comunity worker, is part of a group within the campaign that is looking at what happens if 102 does pass. The quesions raised are wrenching. Says Norman, "My biggest concern is how do we protect the people we are serving if this goes through... Do you make a decision to follow the law, or do you make a decision to protect your client? I am deciding to protect my client."

Norman stresses that if the initiatives pass we must pull together even more. "We have to begin to treat the people who are at risk like family. If you were my brother, guess what? I wouldn't turn you in. We have to decide that whatever goes down, we are actually going to support and take care of each other."

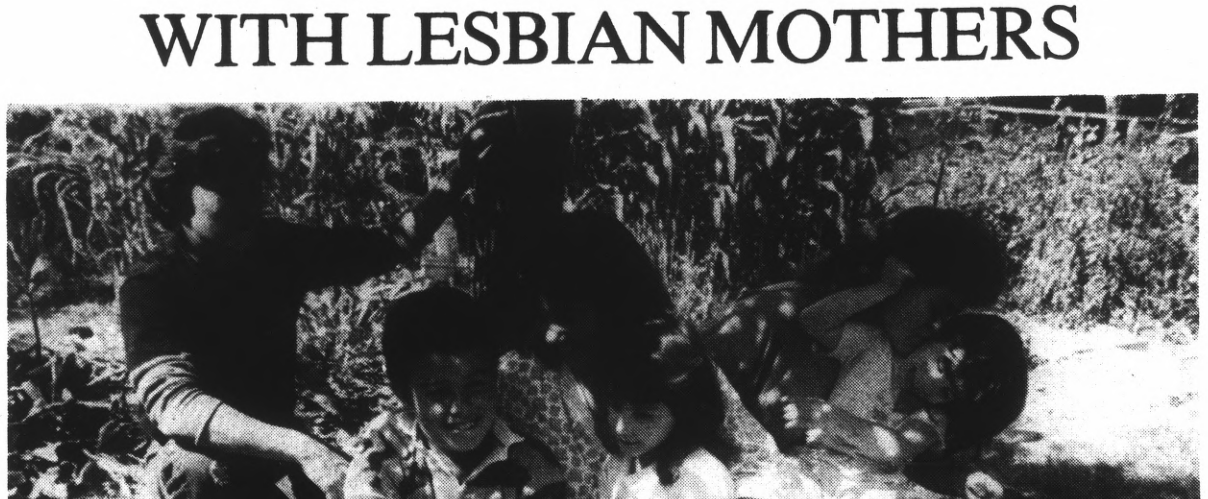
While the campaign against 102 is revving up, Sheriff Block's Proposition 96 so far faces little opposition. ACT UP is one of the few organizations which has shown any interest in working against 96, which among other things could well affect AIDS activists arrested while doing civil disobedience. Some community leaders are worried by the silence on 96.

"It's very frightening," Norman says. "96 is obviously a very dangerous piece of possible legislation. I don't understand the complacency in any of the groups at risk about 96."

"When you're taken to jail for whatever it is," she continued, "and someone decides to test you because you look like you might be one of those people with AIDS, you might be one of those people tested against your will."

The number in San Francisco for Californians Against 102 is 621-4450.

COMING OF AGE WITH LESBIAN MOTHERS



PHOTOS BY BARBARA MAGGIANI

"I'm really grateful to my mom for being gay because it's made me more open to living. I'm open to people who are different. I'm open to so many different ideas. I think I'm pretty lucky to be in this kind of arrangment."

— 16-year-old daughter of a lesbian

"I was radical feminist from the time she was three. She's been getting indocrinated. And yet she watches the Miss America pageant. I think she does it just to hurt me."

— a lesbian mother, *laughing*

"I think it's disgusting. When you think of a guy and a woman, that seems like the 'right thing,' but a woman with a woman or a guy with a guy is sick. That's my personal opinion. But like I said, it's her life. It's okay for her, as long as it doesn't rub off on me."

— 14-year-old daughter of a lesbian

BY LAURA DAVIS

Author's Note: Children are growing up in gay and lesbian families in increasing numbers. Aside from the thousands of children born in straight marriages whose parents have come out, there is a virtual baby boom in the lesbian and gay community.

This article will begin to address some of the special challenges faced by gay and lesbian families. Since many of these problems emerge in adolescence, the primary subjects for this article were teenagers whose parents came out after heterosexual marriages. (The kids born through artificial insemination are still too young for many of these issues to have fully emerged.)

This article is by no means definitive. The issues raised here are complex and multi-faceted. Nor is this article representative of the range of kids being raised in gay and lesbian homes in the Bay Area. Rather, it's a beginning. I hope it serves to raise questions and discussion — that it's the jumping off place for further discussion.

Although kids in gay and lesbian homes are raised with diverse values, ethics, privileges, problems and opportunities — just like kids in straight families — they do face a common challenge — coming to terms with having a parent (or parents) who are gay.

Particularly in adolescence, this can represent a difficult challenge. Teenagers have to accept their parents' sexuality while actively exploring their own. They face difficult questions about visibility and coming out to peers. And they have to accept the fact that their family is "different" at a time when kids desperately want to be the same.

There are many factors that influence children's acceptance or rejection of their parents' lifestyle. Critical factors include where a family lives, the attitudes of adults the child comes into contact with, the attitude of ex-husbands or wives, and the level of homophobia in the community.

Judith Stevenson, who raised her daughters in Houston, moved to San Francisco in large part to give her youngest daughter a chance to live in a more liberal environment. "One of the most difficult things for me in Houston was that I joined a lesbian mother's support group. And the main goal of 90 percent of the women was to get support in how to hide from their children, how to be closeted so their children wouldn't know, how to conduct their affairs in secret."

Within their first two months in San Francisco, Judith and her daughter could already sense a change. "Melanie had a new friend, a girl from whom she wanted to keep the secret. She went out shopping with this young girl and her mom. Apparently the child made a homophobic remark in the shopping center and her mother, who's a former San Francisco city policewoman, said, 'We don't talk that way about gay people,' and gave her a little lecture. It just blew Melanie away. And I was just delighted."

In the case of a divorce and a later coming out, the age of the children is an important factor in their level of acceptance in having gay or lesbian parents. If children are very young when their parents divorce and come out, they're more likely to view a gay or lesbian family as "normal." Children who have to cope with a divorce and a parent's coming out at puberty, or at another critical developmental time, often have more difficulty adjusting.

Karen Pheifer, whose daughter Elizabeth is having trouble accepting her mother's lesbianism, explained, "I came out three years ago, when Elizabeth was nine. We moved out here to live with my lover. We left what was a secure place for her. She *had* to move. She *had* to go to this strange place to live with Sherrie, and Sherrie and I were a couple. She had a really hard time with that. Her whole lifestyle, all the people in her world changed radically at the age of nine. She was so depressed I thought we were going to have to go to therapy."

Where a parent is in the coming out process is another thing that affects a child's attitude. Parents who are just coming out are often in such turmoil over their own changes that their parenting suffers. And a parent who is still struggling with coming out issues is likely to influence a child's level of acceptance of a gay lifestyle.

Karen Pheifer is still in the coming out process. "I'm still not out to my parents and I know that that must sink in with Elizabeth. She spends a lot of time with my parents. She's always nervous about what she should say and what she shouldn't say. She picks up on my insecurities. I'm hoping that the more out I am, the more comfortable I am, the more comfortable she'll be."

Yet even when a mother or father is perfectly comfortable or open being gay, children still can balk at having gay parents. Mathile Poor, a therapist who's run lesbian parent support groups for ten years, says that objections usually surface around particular developmental stages. "Even kids who've grown up with gay parents seem to go through an awakening when they suddenly realize what it means *sexually*, that these two men or these two women

they've been living with are really sexually involved. This usually happens between eleven and thirteen."

All teenagers go through a period of shock and disgust when they realize their parents actually have sex. But kids in gay and lesbian families also have to come to terms with the fact that their parents are having sex that is considered deviant by most people.

Fourteen-year-old Melanie is struggling with her mother's lesbianism. She thinks it's gross. "A woman with a woman or a guy and a guy is sick. I guess I think it's disgusting. I think it's sick and it's hard with my friends. I'd do anything to have her be straight, but I can't. It's her life, but I still wouldn't mind having a father, as in a regular daddy. And I wonder why it had to be this way."

Melanie's mom, Judith Stevenson, says Melanie didn't always feel this way. "Melanie was only three years old when she first came to visit me living with a woman. She was too young for it to make any difference. At six she went to a Gay Pride rally and later went home to tell all her friends about it. She has always been attracted to the dykiest women and the most outrageous fairies she could find. She zoomed right in on these people right away. She carried flags and said she was gay. She accepted it just fine until about a year and a half ago. Then she entered puberty."

Adolescence is a time when kids desperately want to fit in. If you spend any time at a junior high school, you soon observe that kids wear their hair the same. They dress the same. They even try to walk the same. Things *have* to be the same. So doing anything different is just awful. And having a gay or lesbian parent is *very* different.

In schools where there are lots of single parent families, kids with gay or lesbian parents stand out a little less. Frequently, kids from gay and lesbian homes seek out others who come from "different" situations or who have already established themselves as offbeat. Mathile Poor says she's seen this repeatedly with the kids she has worked with. "They often make friends with the more way out kids because they would be the ones to be more accepting."

Telling Friends

One of the toughest issues for kids is telling their friends about their parents. Children frequently go through a period when they make up stories about their home life. Many hesitate to bring friends home. One mother explained, "She doesn't want to bring her friends to spend the night. There's only three rooms and it's really obvious that my lover and I share a room."

In essence, kids in gay and lesbian families have to go through a process of coming out to their friends. Mathile Poor explains: "It's as hard for them to come out as it is for us, maybe harder, because they don't have all the rewards for being gay or lesbian that we have, all the goodies that come with our good feelings about who we are. They don't have that. And it's very, very difficult."

Fear is the main thing that stops kids from telling. Mathile Poor says it's the fear, not the reality that stops most kids. "I've heard very few stories of kids coming out to their friends and their friends ignoring them for it. But it's the responsibility of telling them that's so awesome, the fear of being rejected by your own peers."

In adolescence this fear can be acute. It is for Melanie. "It's kind of worrisome because if it gets out to the wrong person, then everybody knows. People might freak out. If someone came over to spend the night and they felt uncomfortable, then they wouldn't want to come over again. Or they might think I was gonna turn out gay and try something on them. A lot of teenagers think the AIDS virus goes among most gays, so they might think I have AIDS. And I might get teased, 'Your mom has AIDS,' and then it would just spread from there. I don't want to take the risk."

Melanie wishes things were different, that her mother was straight. "If she wasn't the way she is, I wouldn't have to face problems in school. I wouldn't have to take a big huge step in trusting somebody and saying, 'My mother's gay.' It would take a load off my back. I wouldn't have to be scared or worried that anybody important is going to find out."

Melanie's mother, Judith Stevenson, is the director of Operation Concern. Having her mother be out in such a public way presented an even harder challenge for Melanie. "My mother told me Operation Concern was therapy for gays. If I told people where she worked, I was afraid they'd know. So when my friends asked me where she worked, I'd say, 'Uh... well... uh... I don't know. I forgot.' Then I talked to my mom about it. We decided to say she's an administrator of counselors."

Not all kids are afraid to tell. Ten-year-old Sara is simply sick of telling. "My friends would point to Janet (her mother's lover) and say, 'Who's she?' And I'd say, 'She's my mother's lover.' And they'd say, 'What?!?' And I'd say, 'They're lesbian.' And they'd say, 'What's lesbian?' And then I'd have to get into the whole thing. I'd say, 'You know how when a man and woman are in love and then they get married? Well, it's like that relationship only it's two women.' Then they sort of got the idea. But after a couple of times, I found that explaining lesbian gets to be kind of tiring. If I could explain it once and then everyone would know, I'd be perfectly happy to do that. But you have to explain it so many times, it gets to be a pain."

Sara found an inventive way around all this explaining. Like many families, her family invented a story she could use for people she knows casually. As Sara tells it, "I called a family meeting a few years ago because I didn't like explaining lesbian over and over. And Janet said I could call her my stepmother. Now I feel a little more comfortable. I just say she's my stepmother. It takes a lot less words."

This usually works, but it's sometimes awkward. "When Janet and Ellen (Sara's biological mother) come to parents' night together, and I say, 'She's my stepmother,' my friends will say, 'Oh. You mean your mother and your stepmother are *friends*??' And I say, 'In a way.' That's usually a good enough explanation."

When it comes to best friends, Sara has a different policy. "If it's a close friend, I explain the whole thing to them. I don't want them to

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Ollie's Story

Olivia is sixteen years old. She lives with her eleven-year-old brother, her two younger sisters, aged six and four, her mother, Maria, and her mother's lover, Doreen. She and her brother were born during her mother's early marriages. Maria came out and met Doreen when Olivia was seven. Doreen and Maria have been together for the nine years since then. Their two youngest daughters were born through artificial insemination.

I first remember Mom with another woman when I was about six. I don't think she ever sat down and said, "Ollie, I'm gay." I think I just picked it up on my own. Even when I was young, I knew what it meant. I don't remember ever waking up one day and saying, "Oh, God! They're... they're... they're that!"

To me, it's always been okay. I mean it *has* to be okay. My mom's doing it! I trust my mom a lot, so I don't think she'd be doing something illegal or immoral. I think I grew up believing and knowing it was all right because I've been around it so long. Also my dad was really supportive of it. He never condemned my mom. Most of the adult friends I've known have thought it was okay. Growing up, I never heard any negative things about lesbians.

But when I got older, in junior high, I can remember kids tralking about it more and making obscene gestures and saying obscene things about it, acting like it was a disease or something. But by the time I started to hear people say that it was wrong, it was too ingrained in me to think they were right.

I am more sensitive to people making weird jokes about being gay. There have been discussions at school on gay rights. When I have to sit there and hear someone on the other side of the room go, "Ewwww," it just kind of curdles my blood, and makes me think, "What an awful person. How can you be alive in this society?" Not that it bothers me — they're the ones who are being immature.

When someone makes an anti-gay remark, I usually let it go. If I'm around a lot of people I don't really care about, who I haven't told, I figure, "If I don't know these people well enough to have told them, I don't think they need to see me vulnerable. They've given nothing to me, why should I make myself vulnerable to them?" So I usually just sit back and let it pass.

I Had to Watch Who I Told

When I was eleven, my brother and I used to take the bus to and from school. And I remember being with all my friends talking about our parents and I said, "I have three moms. I have a step-mom, and then there's Mom and Doreen." And they said, "You can't." And I remember thinking, "These people don't understand." That was the point where I realized I had to think about who I could trust with it.

If I think I can tell someone, I will. Usually it's just intuition. Every now and then, I tell someone I later regret telling. Some people figure it out on their own. My band director figured it out just because of the different names on the checks.

I usually tell the people who I sense will play a big part in my life, like my boyfriend. I told him. He needed to know. People who are going to be spending a lot of time at my house, people who are going to become involved with me and my family, need to know. But if I'm just casual friends with someone I'm not going to just up and tell them, "Gee my mom is gay" — just because I don't think they'd be ready for it.

Usually if someone doesn't know, I'll tell them Doreen is my aunt. The one time that story has a glitch in it is when Doreen punishes me. My friends who don't know can't understand why she has the power to do that. They say, "She's your aunt. Why should she be able to punish you?" I say, "Well, she's helped raise me for ten years. That gives her the right." Or sometimes I just say, "Well, she's my other parent. My mom's gay."

Most of the people I've chosen to tell accept it. The people I tell have usually met my mom first, so they'll see her just as a "regular person," and then I tell them. It doesn't really change their idea of my mom. Most of my friends think my mom is pretty cool.

I Have a Hard Time Fitting In

I have this philosophy that the beautiful people who are totally the same in every way, you just kind of forget about them. It's the people who are different, who don't look like we're "supposed" to look, that people really remember. So I live by that. I figure if I'm really different then people really remember me. I take pride in being different. I don't wear dresses and skirts. I don't wear makeup. I have different views. I'm really a rebellious sort of person. I don't like to be like everyone else.

I'm pretty sure it's compensation. Because I have a gay family, I know I will never be in the normal "in" group. I already know I'm not going to be in it, so I might as well just push hard the other way and make myself as different as I can. I just decided if having a gay family is going to make me different, all the better for me.

It's Just There

I don't think it's a burden or that it's something I've been blessed with. I just think of it as something that's there. The telling people itself I don't think of as a burden. I don't think of it as a joy either. It's just there. I can't go to my mom and say, "Look, I'm tired of you being gay. Back to the way you were so I don't have to tell everyone that you're gay." It's kind of instinct now. It's automatic. Either I tell someone or I don't tell them. I don't think about it a lot.

I think I'm pretty lucky to be in this kind of arrangement. I know there are a lot of people out there who think it's a sin and it's a terrible burden that totally deforms the mind of the youth. I think that's all garbage. I could have so easily been brought up in a family that was totally homophobic and totally prejudiced. I guess I was meant to be brought up in this kind of family because I could never see myself as anything else.

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think Janet's my stepmother. Usually they react just like it's another family situation, which is one reason why they're very good friends. I don't want people that are going to judge me by my parents."

This last statement is echoed by many kids. "If they're going to say, 'Ewww!' I don't want them for a good friend." "If they're going to be weird enough to say, 'I'm not going to hang with you because your mom is gay,' then I'm not missing out on anything special." "If the person doesn't want to be your friend because your parent is gay, that's pretty stupid, and I'd like to hit them in the face. They're the ones missing out. It's their problem."

Despite such statements, most kids are cautious about who they tell. Many develop a finely tuned sense of intuition so they can "psych out" other kids' responses. As sixteen-year-old Ollie says, "I can basically tell right away who's going to think it's disgusting and who's not going to mind at all."

Although it's hard, telling other kids is not always a negative experience. Even kids who have the worst time telling, like Melanie, see benefits as well. "I feel like telling somebody makes our relationship stronger because it shows them that I really, really trust them. When I share such a meaningful secret with them, they feel they can share with me too."

In a gay or lesbian family, it's not just the kids who have to deal with coming out. It's the parents too. If there is a partner, lover or co-parent involved, they have to decide who to come out to, and when. Do teachers get told? School administrators? Parents of the children's friends? Each family has to determine a policy about coming out. And even when it isn't intended, the small emergencies of daily life somtimes force the issue.

One woman listed her lover as the emergency contact with school authorities, yet chose not to come out directly to her daughter's teachers. One day, her daughter had a headache and went down to the nurse for an aspirin. School rules said that the nurse couldn't give aspirin without parental approval. When the nurse called home, she reached the mother's lover.

"Sherrie was home and I wasn't. And Sherrie just said, 'Listen, she lives with me. I'm involved in her life. And it's really fine if you give her a couple of aspirin.' And the nurse said, 'I don't know if we can do that. You're not her mother.' Finally, in exasperation, Sherrie just said, 'Listen! I'm her mother's lover! We *live* together. Give the girl a couple of aspirin!" And of course, the woman choked and said, 'Oh. Oh. Oh...' but she gave my daughter the aspirin."

Dealing with Homophobia

One of the hardest things kids have to face is the gay-baiting they hear in school. Being called a faggot is one of the most common taunts in school. Even in the "liberal" Bay Area, kids have to listen to anti-gay comments on a regular basis. One nine-year-old reported, "There was this little chant that went around my school at the beginning of the year. It was, 'I love you. You love me. Homosexuality. People think we're just friends. But we're really lesbians.' It went around, and it was like, 'Blech! Lesbians.' You could tell they felt that way. But I didn't do anything. I just listened to it."

One girl said she doesn't mind when her friend are ignorant. "They don't know what gay society is like. They don't know that gays are more caring to everybody. I kind of sit back and laugh. It doesn't bother me when my friends say 'faggot' as long as they're not talking about my mom. And even if they were, I wouldn't mind as long as they kept it to themselves and didn't tell everybody else."

Most kids don't speak up when they hear anti-gay remarks. They pretend not to notice, to minimize the hurt involved. Melanie says she doesn't know what else to do. "When people joke about it and say, 'Your mom's a fag,' I don't know what to say back. I just ignore it till they stop. They stop sooner or later when they see it isn't getting to you, but it is getting to you. You just don't let them know it."

Other kids fight back, quite literally. One girl said, "I want to go around and hit people, and then I get into a fight, and then I get in trouble at home."

Taunts and words are not all that threaten kids from gay and lesbian families. Judith Stevenson talked about the risks for her daughters in Houston. "There was a lot of teenage violence in Houston, enough problems with racism and homophobia that I really did feel it was an issue of safety."

Many parents feel guilty when they see their children teased or bullied because of their own sexual preference. But others get angry instead. As one father said to me, "Would you tell a Black family not to have children because their kids are going to experience racism? It's the society that has to be changed."

Taking the World on Our Shoulders

Adolescence is hard for teenagers and parents in any family, but in gay and lesbian families, parents frequently take on a larger burden of guilt. Sometimes it is because of the baiting their children receive. Other times it's just because their children wish they were straight. Poor explains, "They often feel worse than heterosexual parents when their children aren't happy, because they feel it's connected to their own life choices."

Guilt is a feeling Stevenson has lived with and overcome. She had to reconcile herself to the extreme reactions of her oldest daughters when she told them she was a lesbian. "My oldest daughters were fifteen and sixteen. They were living with their Dad. I came to visit and told them that I was involved with a woman. Initially, they registered some surprise that this was the first time. I'd had lesbian friends for years.

"After I left town and went back to Minneapolis, the information had time to settle. My older daughter came to live with me and my second daughter totally rejected me and the entire family. For the next seven years, we did not hear from her. She got her dad to instigate custody proceedings to get her name changed. She did everything possible to disassociate herself from the family. She just flat out couldn't handle it.

"For seven years, I basically gave her up for dead. I had to adopt an attitude that I might never see this child again. I did everything I knew of to do. I sought counseling. I went through the grief process. I wrote her, I called her. I tried to manipulate her. I sent her her baby pictures. I sent her notes and cards and momentos from her childhood, and I'd say, 'How can you do this? How can you just turn your back on all these years together?' I later learned her father had been confiscating a lot of her mail. A lot of that never got to her. She never saw them.

"Nancy, my oldest daughter, was more superficially accepting. She came to Minneapolis to live with me. I was living with a woman and we were involved with Minneapolis gay politics. Nancy skipped school and organized her friends to come with us on the Human Rights March in St. Paul. Then she had a brief fling herself with a bisexual girl in her high school who was madly in love with her. It totally freaked Nancy out. She threw herself into a whirlwind of heterosexual activity at an earlier age than she might have otherwise. And of course the result of that was pregnancy. She had a baby and got married at seventeen."

Although Judith has since reconciled with both daughters, she felt terribly guilty at the time. "When Karen withdrew, and then later, when Nancy had her baby, I felt responsible. I felt it was a reaction to me being a lesbian. She needed to negate her connection to me and to those parts of herself. I felt terribly guilty. I spent a lot of time crying. I spent a lot of time in therapy and support groups. Eventually I came to understand that being a lesbian was who I was. It wasn't a political choice I made. I had made a discovery that I was a lesbian. Once I made that decision there was no turning back. I could make decisions about how closeted I wanted to be, but I couldn't choose not to be a lesbian."

The Perils of Puberty

As kids go through puberty, they often develop an acute discomfort with things they accepted earlier. Parents are often asked to take down gay or lesbian posters, to put away books, to stop displaying affection in front of their children's friends.

Stevenson described a recurring fight with her daughter Wendy during her teenage years: "I'd open the front door and she and her boyfriend would be sprawled all over the couch. But if I and my lover touched each other, she would fly into these fits about how disgusting it was, all this display of sexuality. And I said, 'I don't think it's the display of sexuality you're objecting to. It's the display of homosexuality, because you're displaying your sexuality all over the house.' And so we went through a whole lot of what was fair, negotiating behaviors in the house."

In the course of raising four daughters, Judith became increasingly responsive to her teenagers' requests for her to be more closeted. "When I first came out I had a pretty rigid attitude about being an out lesbian. I and the whole world had to accept this. I'm not surprised Karen left when I look back at it. When I look back on Karen's upbringing and look at my insistence that she accept every facet of my lifestyle, that I said to a fifteen-year-old kid, 'Boom! Overnight, your reality has changed and this is who I am and you *have* to accept this,' I'm not surprised she left. That's a pretty heavy-duty thing for a kid.

"The loss of Karen meant that I became

I'd open the front door and she and her boyfriend would be sprawled all over the couch. But if I and my lover touched each other, she would fly into these fits about how disgusting it was, all this display of sexuality

— Judith Stevenson on the joys of adolescent offspring

much more negotiable with my two younger teenagers. I was much more willing to negotiate how out I was in the house or in the neighborhood. I'm not willing to compromise in terms of how out I am in the community, but in terms of that smaller circle where friends are in and out, I'm willing to negotiate for her safety."

Serial Monogamy & Separatism

Aside from the pressures and prejudices from the outside, kids in gay families have to deal with aspects of gay culture that directly affect their lives at home. One of these is separatism. What does it mean for a boy to grow up in a separatist atmosphere? For many, it has meant being excluded or belittled, simply for being male. It's meant living in an atmosphere where the fact that they're young *men* has been discounted or minimized. This can be shattering to a young boy's sense of self-esteem, and is likely to negatively affect his attitude toward lesbians.

In homes where lesbian mothers seek to protect their sons from such attitudes, the result is often a painful isolation. Mathile Poor, whose son is now an adult, said dealing with separatist friends was the most painful part of being a mother. "The sons who grew up during the period of strong separatism have a less favorable view of having a lesbian mother because our friends wouldn't accept them. It wasn't just at music festival and at public events. I had friends who wouldn't let my son in their houses, and still won't. We would have big Thanksgiving or Christmas celebrations and they wouldn't let him come, so I'd have a choice of whether I was going to be with my friends or be alone with my son. It was very painful. I haven't healed from it even after ten years, and I'm sure my son hasn't either. How can our sons love lesbians if they aren't accepted and can't go into their homes?"

Another factor that needs to be explored in terms of impact on kids, is serial monogamy. Poor explains, "There are so few lesbian relationships that last ten or twelve years. There are few kids who've grown up with the same lover."

The impact of serial relationships on kids depends a lot on how the parents handle the break-ups. If kids are encouraged to keep strong ties to the previous lover, emotional damage is minimized. But if kids are cut off from someone they've loved deeply, the effects can be devastating. One fourteen-year-old said, "It seemed like whenever I got really, really close to one of her lovers, the lover would disappear, and it was over. And I didn't get to see them. It was kind of hurtful because these people were special. They were in my life for a year or two and then they just disappeared."

Of course, not all gay and lesbian relationships end this way, but it is crucial that we examine the need for emotional continuity in the lives of our children.

What About the Next Generation?

Although it's too soon to tell, the mothers and fathers of young children today, who are being raised with gay/lesbian parents from birth, wonder if their children will face the same issues in adolescence. If kids haven't ever had a heterosexual home, will they still go through a period of rebelling against having homosexual parents? Are positive attitudes about homosexuality at home and in the immediate community enough to mitigate the pressures kids face in school?

Mathile Poor doesn't think do. She thinks things will stay basically the same. "Once they aren't at home anymore and they're out with their peers, the culture really does intrude. The pressure they get, what they read and see in the media really affects kids. Unless things radically change in our society, I think they'll go through basically the same developmental pattern that the older children have — which is to go through a difficult phase in the teenage years when it's really difficult to have gay or lesbian parents."

Poor talked to one mother who has an eight-year-old born through insemination. The mother was shocked because the kid was going to school and suddenly telling people he only had one mother. He'd never had any problem saying he had two moms before. Suddenly he was "confused" about having two mothers. "So what's going to happen when the kid is thirteen?" Poor asked. "I think kids are kids. I don't think it matters how the seed was planted."

The Bottom Line

The most important thing about the difficulties of adolescence is that they come to an end. Children work through their separation from their parents. They come to terms with their own sexuality. They come to accept the fact that their parents are "different." And a majority of kids from gay/lesbian households eventually gain enough perspective to recognize that there are benefits in growing up in a home that was "different."

Melanie says of her mother: "She's more of free-er person with me. She's more outgoing. She's more lenient. She understands. She's been through it both ways. She seems nicer than my father or any of my other friend's mothers. I think my mom is great."

Other kids say their parents seem more relaxed, less rigid, more accepting of differences. "My mom's friends and lovers who are gay are nicer than regular parents. And it seems like none of them have prejudices whatsoever. Gay society is neater. They're unique."

Ollie (see sidebar, next page) says she's glad her mother is gay because it gives her the freedom to explore her own sexuality. "It made me more aware that there are different choices to make and that I could be either way. That's one thing I'm really grateful for. If I did decide to be gay, it wouldn't pose a problem like it does in a lot of families."

Ollie says her mom's lesbianism has made her more open. "I'm open toward people who are different. It's offered me so many different ideas. I don't like the society that we're living in. I think what they're doing to the planet really sucks. And I think my mom being gay has given me a broader insight on what people are doing out in the world."

Not all kids ever reach a place of being so clearly accepting and appreciative of having gay or lesbian parents. But even when kids are having trouble accepting their parents' homosexuality, it's important to remember that it's only one of many factors influencing their development.

Karen Pheifer says of her daughter, "She's been in very straight nuclear family homes where there was a lot of hatred, where the kids got ignored, where they weren't cared about, where they were thrown out, or they were spanked in front of her. She'll come home and be very upset about it. So she's learned to appreciate what home has to offer. We're silly. We giggle. We dance. We fight on occasion but the fights are not yelling, screaming, hitting. They're not the violent, hating kinds of things she's seen in other homes. She likes her home."

Republicans...

(continued from page 12)

The museum hall was emptying out, and Mrs. Mel and I retired to the front steps. She complained that her husband had abandoned her, and sent someone to get her a ride. And she continued, "But our gang, we'd be in the state capital, and at the end of the day we'd go find the suite of the National Organization for Women and we'd hang on the beds, we'd hang around.

"We're not enemies. We enjoy one another's conversation. We're not enemies. We loved, in fact I still do love the women, I would say, oh, yes, I love some of the feminists, and I'd like to think they love me too."

Just then Phyllis swept out onto the steps, triumphant after her day's contribution to morality and military spending.

The small group of staffers and local Eagle volunteers broke into song, "Happy birthday to you..."

Phyllis stood graciously in her red blouse and red, white and blue floral skirt and beamed.

And I recalled the words those protesters had sung earlier, "Happy birthday dear AIDS bigot, happy birthday to yooooo."

But the Eagles didn't need to sing that line. After all, they are on a first name basis.

LAW Events

Now, I don't mean to toot my own horn, that's immoral, but Ladies Against Women did several nifty things in town. We held a press conference where I did a tribute to Mr. Bush's favorite snack, Pork Rinds, by showing my recipe for a breakfast version, Frosted Puffed Pork Rinds. Very delightful, light and bland. I got to comment on that dear Mr. Quayle, who reminds me so much of a red, white and blue-blooded Ken doll. Fortunately, he and Mr. Bush are both Contra Club Republicans. And I was able to explain that when Mr. Reagan talked about the land of 200 flavors of ice cream he was not talking about sex. He wasn't even talking about choice. They were talking about Vanilla, French Vanilla, Imitation Vanilla, Cherry Vanilla....

And then we had a lovely little iron-in and bake-off for SDI. The new members of NOLAW looked lovely as they held little signs which read "Moms for Bombs," "Citizenship for Sperms," and 'SDI — The Last Temptation of Bush." Some of the NOLAW gals waved tiny "Vote Cute" signs, and we cried out — "Vote Cute — Leadership is only skin deep — and height's important, too!" On the spot we formed "Babyboomer Bimbos for Quayle." Unfortunately, while the media flocked around, a few of the official tagged Delegettes would not take our little pink fliers, and we called out after them.

"That's O.K. — illiteracy is a virtue, what you can't read can't hurt you," and "Good girl! An open mind is the devil's workshop!"

GAY RODEO?

Women should not rodeo any more than men can have babies. Women were put on earth to reproduce, and are close to animals. Women's liberation is on an equal to gay liberation — they are both ridiculous."

—a rodeo steer wrestler, as quoted in "Rodeo: An Anthropologist Looks at the Wild and the Tame," by Elizabeth Arwood Lawrence (Univ. Ten. Press, 1982)

'Nuf said? Apparently not, for the San Francisco chapter of the Golden State Gay Rodeo Association will host a rodeo at Hayward's Rowell Ranch on September 10 & 11.

Let's get real folks. Gay rodeo is a sell-out to the very ethic which is most responsible for the oppression of gay people, women and ethnic minorities in this country. Rodeo is an exercise in **domination**, man (or woman) over beast, one step removed from rape. **Every** major animal welfare organization in the U.S. condemns rodeo for its inherent cruelty.

Urge the organizers and sponsors of this rodeo to present instead an event which neither harms, terrorizes nor exploits animals: GSGRA, PO Box 410773, San Francisco 94141, 707/829-9440

Please join ACTION FOR ANIMALS on a peaceful, educational picket line at the Hayward Rowell Ranch on both Sept. 10 and 11 at noon. For further information, contact AFA at PO Box 20184, Oakland 94620, 415/652-5603

ACT UP Defines Battle Lines

BY RICK OSMUN

There is new cause for hope in the war against AIDS. The strategies to be followed are finally coming into focus: (1) win the hearts and minds of our fellow citizens; (2) be specific about what we want; (3) make it impossible for the government to ignore us. That was the message at the August 18 community meeting sponsored by ACT UP San Francisco. If the organizer's predictions about the events planned for October 8-11 in Washington come true, we may finally be reaching the critical mass needed to effectively fight this epidemic.

ACT UP, the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power, invited Cleve Jones, executive director of the Names Project, Martin Delaney of Project Inform, and Arawn Eibhlyn of ACT UP to share their strategies for the fight ahead. All three groups are coordinating efforts to display the quilt in Washington October 8 and 9, to lobby Congress and the Reagan administration October 10, and to symbolically seize control of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) by non-violent civil disobedience October 11.

Speaking to an enthusiastic audience of about 75, Cleve Jones described the incredible impact that the AIDS memorial quilt had in sharing the human side of AIDS wherever it went on its recent national tour. He reported, "Names Project groups were started and panels were added in all 25 cities visited. The quilt grew from 1,900 panels at the beginning of the tour to 9,000 at the close." Jones said the tremendous outpouring of support and compassion included large numbers of heterosexuals and raised thousands of dollars for local AIDS programs.

Jones predicted a larger turnout in Washington this year than the 500,000 the National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights drew in October 1987. He said, "Names Project groups in every city have pledged to send volunteers to Washington in October to help unfold the quilt and to take part in lobbying efforts and non-violent civil disobedience. And for the first time since the start of this epidemic, I think we may be outnumbered by our heterosexual supporters in Washington." The Names Project is preparing to mount a national ad campaign urging people to come to Washington to view the quilt and to protest the government's inaction. The campaign will feature billboard and magazine ads with special attention to the California and Texas markets. Jones pointed out that United Airlines offers discounts to anyone travelling to Washington to see the quilt. He asked that all present do everything in their power to get to Washington and move this fight forward. When asked, over two thirds of those present said they would try to go.

Martin Delaney, who has been with Project Inform since 1984, talked about the complexity of issues surrounding AIDS treatments. "The FDA serves as an institution to license drugs for manufacturers. To gain access to a new drug, the FDA requires a five-year, $126 million review before they will grant a license. "The FDA is not the whole problem. The 20 companies that form the drug monopoly in this country have a vested interest in the time and expense it currently takes for the FDA to license a new drug." Delaney continued, "There are at least six drugs that show promise today in treating AIDS, but we can't get them licensed. To get an idea of how slow and inadequate the FDA's process is, 14 of the 15 most significant drugs put on the market in recent years were available in Europe or Japan two to three years before they were released in the United States."

Delaney cautioned that while Congress is looking at the regulations for drug licensing, we should understand that we are probably philosophically closer to the right wing in promoting free market access to treatment than we are to our traditional liberal allies. "We haven't had the support we really need from our liberal friends, and it's time we demand it. This is no way to run an epidemic. It isn't a baldness treatment we're talking about, it's life and death." Delaney finished by asking the audience to join in the protests in Washington October 8-11 and to be very specific in any demands they make.

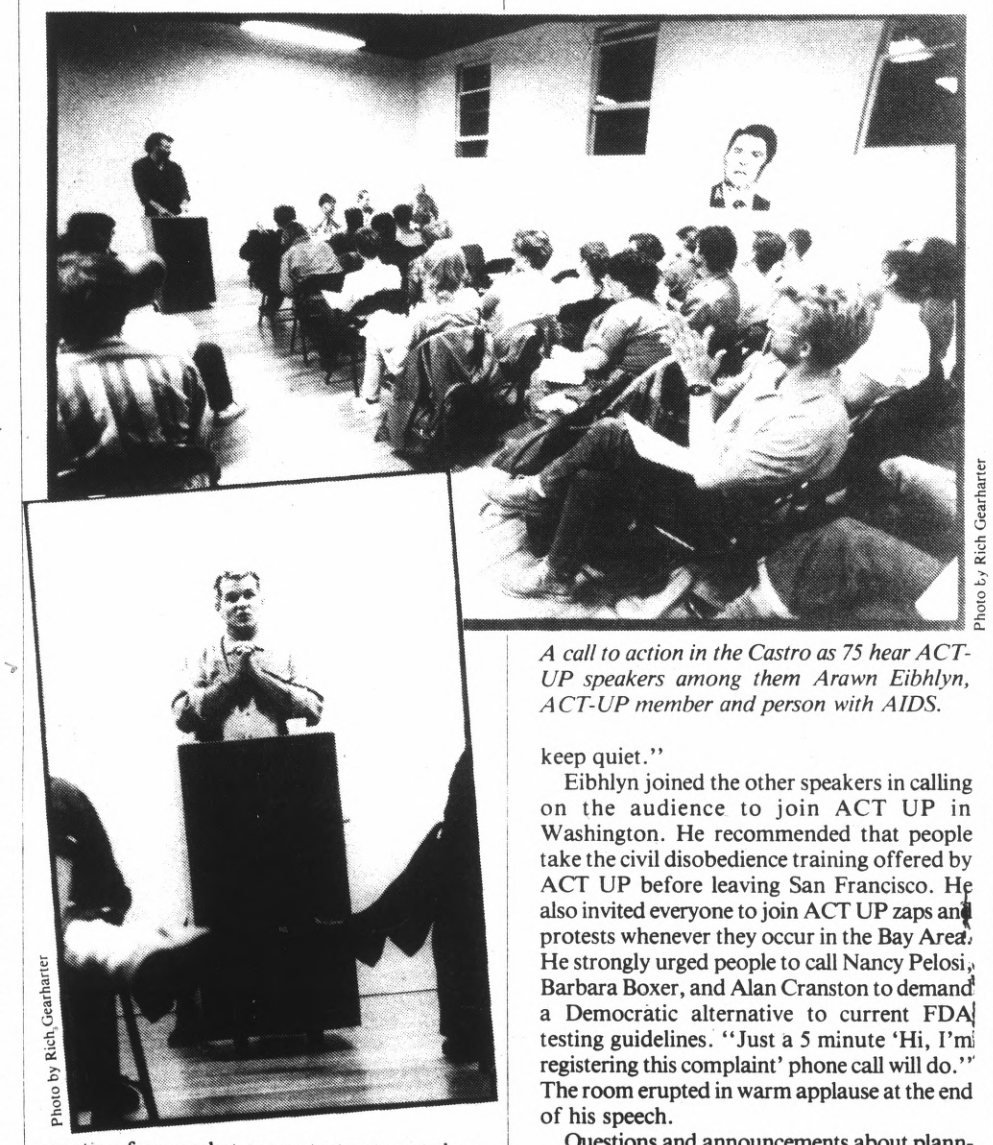

Photo by Rich Gearharter

Photo by Rich Gearharter

A call to action in the Castro as 75 hear ACT-UP speakers among them Arawn Eibhlyn, ACT-UP member and person with AIDS.

The final speaker, Arawn Eibhlyn, a member of ACT UP/SF and a person with AIDS, reminded the audience of the individual power each has. In a determined voice, Eibhlyn declared, "We have decided to act; we have the power to make change. When we don't do what we are 'supposed to do,' things happen.

"Among the things we are 'supposed to do' is to relinquish this power to doctors who know less about AIDS than we do," continued Eibhlyn, "to the politicians who are playing this epidemic as if their actions are more important to their re-election than to saving lives, to government agencies that dictate what they will allow us to do to treat ourselves, and to drug companies that want to get rich from our suffering."

Eibhlyn exhorted the audience to take back this power and to take charge of the fight against AIDS. He recounted a litany of actions that produced change. "Members of ACT UP and other groups followed the President's AIDS Commission all over the country and challenged them with the truth about discrimination and government mismanagement. The AIDS Commission produced a report more honest than anyone would have believed possible a year ago." When the company that makes pentamidine in Chicago tried to raise prices 400 percent, ACT UP challenged them. The drug company tried to buy off the protesters with promises of free pentamidine for themselves and their lovers if they'd just keep quiet."

Eibhlyn joined the other speakers in calling on the audience to join ACT UP in Washington. He recommended that people take the civil disobedience training offered by ACT UP before leaving San Francisco. He also invited everyone to join ACT UP zaps and protests whenever they occur in the Bay Area. He strongly urged people to call Nancy Pelosi, Barbara Boxer, and Alan Cranston to demand a Democratic alternative to current FDA testing guidelines. "Just a 5 minute 'Hi, I'm registering this complaint' phone call will do." The room erupted in warm applause at the end of his speech.

Questions and announcements about planned demonstrations, zaps, kiss-ins, die-ins followed the speeches. Members and supporters of ACT UP are ready to put their lives on the line through creative civil disobedience to call attention to the people and institutions that stand in the way of an all-out effort to end the epidemic. This reporter hasn't seen such unity of purpose or commitment to a strategy from any group for over a decade.

The key to winning any war is strategy. The war to end AIDS is no different. Confronted by multiple battle fronts, we have won some battles but we are still losing the war. By the time 40,000 Americans had died in Vietnam, the anti-war movement was well organized and on the verge of victory. But with 40,000 Americans felled by AIDS, we are still a very long way from winning. ACT UP and their partners in the Names Project, Project Inform, and other groups mean to change all that.

According to Media Chairman Liam Kennell, ACT UP is growing rapidly here and around the country. "When I joined 2-1/2 months ago, there were about 15 people involved. You can see the room is packed tonight." Kennell suggested that recent media coverage of ACT UP kiss-ins and die-ins at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions may have sparked some interest. He stated that the purpose of ACT UP is to end the epidemic by making treatment available; by repealing racist, sexist and homophobic laws; and by getting AIDS-affected communities into the street.

ACT UP holds meetings every Thursday at 7:30 P.M. at MCC, 150 Eureka St., 2nd floor. The meetings are open to everyone and plans for future actions are made by group consensus. ACT UP cordially welcomes all members of AIDS-affected communities and their supporters to join. For further information, call ACT UP/SF at 821-9087. If you would like more information about the events planned by the Names Project and about the airline discounts, call 863-5511.

Massive Resignations at Pacific Center

BY TIM KINGSTON

As *Coming Up!* goes to press, it's round three for the Pacific Center, and the question is will the organization be able to get up off the mat after the latest series of blows that have come raining down. In mid-August Philip Tsui, the executive director who only started work five months ago announced his resignation effective on September 2.

By September 15 he will be joined by a good portion of the organization's senior staff members. The immediate trigger for the resignations was, at least in part, due to the announcement that September's payroll obligations would not be met for the 30th, and probably not for the 15th either.

The staff who have resigned are not optomistic about the Center's propects. "This place has been in serious financial trouble for a long time," asserted Helen Keller, administrative assistant due to resign on September 7. "People have been hanging on for as long as they could. It's just insane to hang on any longer."

Jose Garcia, former Pacific Center executive director, disagrees, "We are trying to look at these events as an opportunity for positive things to happen." Jim Newton an attorney and recent recruit to the board asserts, "Personnel changes that have occurred to the Center will not harm it." Newton says the board is in the midst of planning a new strategy for the agency's survival, but he remained cagey about providing any details.

The seriousness of the situation was underlined at a mid-August board meeting where a letter signed by an overwhelming majority of the staff requested the agency be slowly and carefully wound down and terminated. The letter stressed staff did not want to see the agency shutting due to a sudden disaster as almost happened earlier in the year, when $300,000 worth of AIDS edcuation and services contracts were abruptly returned to the county (see *Coming Up!* May 1988, Will the Pacific Center Survive?).

Alicia Jones, the bookkeeper credited by many with pulling off near wizardry on behalf of the Center, says she spent two or three hours in conference with Tsui and current board president Charlie Soule. "I got the impression the board really don't know how they got into the crises," says Jones. "We looked at the agency. It was rather grim. A miracle needs to happen, literally."

The board of directors is currently scrambling to find a new executive director, an administrative assistant/receptionist, and someone to manage the crippled mental health services and intern programs. Ironically, now that several of the staff have left, the center will be able to meet payroll.

Donations were down to almost nothing in August, say Jones and Tsui. Meanwhile, the agency is still laboring under a $43,000 debt accrued from monies owed by the now-separate AIDS Project of the East Bay and contract money owed to the state and city of Berkeley.

The situation is not helped by the level of enmity between certain members of the board and the outgoing staff. Accusations and counter accusations fly thick and fast. Both the Board and the staff members accuse each other of incompetence, sabotage and lack of cooperation. Almost word for word, Jose Garcia charged staff members with exactly what they were accusing him of, a mirror image where staff and board felt they got no recognition for any good work they did and absolute blame for anything that went wrong.

Charlie Soule admits the situation is very touch and go, but he asserts the agency does have the money to provide services from Berkeley and state contracts. He adds determinedly, "The position of the board is that we are not going to throw in the towel."

Lesbians...

(continued from page 11)

accept that people have different diets, people get real uptight about your sexual diet.

(This finished my first conversation with Susie in early July. Later that month she went to the gay health conference in Boston and was repeatedly asked questions about lesbians who sleep with men by the national gay media. While on the East Coast, Susie met with an old gay male friend of hers and talked to him about the issue. She returned to Coming Up! for round two of this discussion)

I met with my friend because he's very thoughtful about sexual matters. I wanted to turn the whole thing around and say, among gay men, if a man fucks a woman, how does everyone feel about it?

He said that he found it rather common among his acquaintances that men had sexual contact with women, but it was in the same realm that I discussed lesbian contact with men. For some it was a once in a decade ocassion and for other people it was like a big affair, for some people it was like on and off. It was like every possible combination of frequency and intensity.

Why can't we be confident enough about our sexuality to let women try something else they may or may not find sexually satisfying?

So he found this to be common, and secondly that the reaction among men was not *you have betrayed the brotherhood*. If there was a negative reaction it was along the lines of, oh, you fucked a woman, oh, that was easy, wasn't it? There was a kind of confidence or recognition of sexuality among gay men that didn't make any incident seem particularly threatening.

I asked him why that was. He said because he thought that gay men have always defined themselves sexually, first and foremost, whereas lesbians have defined themselves politcally to a great extent over the last couple of decades.

I believe what he meant is that gay men have a higher tolerance for men who are in the closet, men who are bisexual, men who fuck both men and women and say that they're gay. There's more of a tolerance because there's sort of this feeling that the bottom line is you want to fuck men or you want to get fucked by men, we've got your number. And we all know what's going on. You can say you're married, but we know that you want cock and that's where it's at. And so you can do whatever else you think you need to do, but we know who you really are. Okay?

I do think gay men have a hotter opinion of their sexuality in terms of self-image than lesbians do. And so there's this sense of, oh, yeah, you could go fuck a woman but, I mean, our sexuality is so hot.

Now, let's compare that to the lesbian community where if a lesbian fucks a man not only is she facing the quandary of whether it was sexually successful or not, but it's also seen as a political act. And what occurred to me is that as lesbians have a more visible, hotter opinion of their sexuality as a group, there is less feeling of a threat when a lesbian fucks a man. But that feeling is not strong enough yet. So, instead we have a lot of insecurity about this phenomenon.

With men, it's like, do you want to suck cock or not? And then with women, do you want to fuck women, do you feel like you have to fuck women, do you feel like you fall in love with women? Okay, that must make you feel like a lesbian then if you have those feelings. That's probably why you call yourself a lesbian.

And instead, the lesbian is defined as: does not want to sleep with men, does not want to talk to men, does not want to do this with men, does not want to do that with men. She's is defined in terms of what she does not want to do instead of what she does want to do. Gay men don't get defined that way. It's, "I want to be with men, I want to fuck men, I have this special emotional-sexual allegiance to men that I don't feel any place else." That kind of positive, very high self-esteem, high sexual image.

With women you have this real fear that lesbian sex isn't hot enough, fear that we're not open and powerful enough, so lesbianism becomes a definition of defensiveness.

A lesbian who goes to bed with a man shouldn't feel like when she wakes up the next morning she'll be surprised if she thinks, "Oh my goodness, I'm still here, I still want to fuck Shirley, after all." It's not like some potion that somebody pours over your head. People do lots of things for sexual entertainment that do not become a prime thing in their lives or make them feel like they want to change their sexual preference.

I hate to make this sound like food, but I really prefer chocolate deserts, and nine times out of ten I will have a chocolate desert, but what if like all of a sudden I decided I wanted cheese cake, just for the hell of it. People will still say Susie really loves chocolate.

That's kind of my point of view about it: there really are people who are bisexual and there really are people who change their sexual behavior quite permanently — people who used to be happily straight and now they're happily gay, and there are people who were happily gay and now they're happily straight. There are those people who really do make a major transition.

Certainly gay people have hated that stigma that we're just going through a phase, especially gay teenagers hate being told they're going through a phase. But the fact is, people do go through phases sometimes until they figure out what they want to do, and that's perfectly legitimate for them to go through a phase whether they're fourteen or forty.

But my feeling when I came back from Boston was strengthened. I think lesbian sex is on an upswing, lesbianism itself is more popular than it has been before. There's all these post feminist lesbians who've inherited a lot of ideas from feminism without explicitly fighting for them. And there is a heightened sexual self-esteem that means lesbians are talking more about what they really do. And they might be experimenting a bit more in their sex lives on a lot of different levels or definitely they're talking more about it. And so something that always was happening is no longer such a secret.

If it was just a question of being straight being easier, then we wouldn't be gay. We're gay in spite of the fact that there are all these difficulties to being gay. We're gay because of something that really drives us to want this thing that isn't popular with the rest of the world.

I want lesbians as a group to feel really solid with that drive, that we will continue to be with women in spite of the fact that our mother doesn't like it, our society doesn't like it and we're discriminated against. There's this ageless homosexuality that just won't quit. And you can relax, because you're going to want to be queer whether you fuck a man or not.

I've said this a million times. Lesbians are lesbians because they want something sexual and intimate from other women that they could not possibly get if they were heterosexual. And that is what makes you a lesbian. Whatever else you're doing is kind of beside the point. Why can't we be confident enough about our sexuality to let women try something else they may or may not find sexually satisfying? I'm not going to begrudge them that experiment.

Feminist Therapy Program to Lose Home At Antioch University West

BY CHRISTINA SMITH

Antioch College announced that it will close its San Francisco campus after all students currently enrolled have finished, and administrators of the graduate feminist therapy division are now negotiating with other Bay Area colleges to find a new home for their unique program.

Four graduate programs are affected by the closure: Feminist Therapy, Drama Therapy, Social/Clinical Psychology, and Somatic Psychology. The feminist therapy program "prepares students to practice with a gender analysis. It's a philosophically innovative program," says founder and current head of the department Ani Mander.

"Antioch College has told us they will meet all commitments to students currently enrolled," Mander says. Negotiations with several other colleges have not yet produced an agreement, but Mander says, "The main thing is to find an affiliation that will honor the political and philosophical tenets of the feminist therapy program."

The impending closure was announced abruptly on June 25 when the San Francisco *Chronicle* published an article about the consolidation of the Antioch College, which is based in Yellow Springs, Ohio. This was the first most students had heard of the decision to close.

The Antioch College Board of Trustees based their decision on a report by the North Central Association after their 10-year annual review concluded that long term problems with fiscal and administrative mismanagement had not been resolved, says Jackson Keidel, an administrator at the Yellow Springs campus. Keidel had been working closely with Antioch West to overcome the problems and will now be assisting with the closure.

"We had developed a plan to bail out Antioch West and had put a lot of time into it. The staff was at their most cohesive point — they had done everything we asked them to. But after the bad review we couldn't convince the Board that the center was worth continuing," Keidel says. "It was a case of the small thing we valued (the graduate programs) getting caught in the backwash of larger events."

Students and administrators at Antioch West say the center is also a victim of a continuing trend toward conservatism at the traditionally progressive main campus. "What we're talking about is institutional conservatism," says Clare Magaera, a feminist therapy student. "There's increasingly less value placed on progressive education, both at Antioch and generally." At the same time the Board of Trustees decided to close Antioch West they also voted to close the Philadelphia center, where the student body is composed largely of poor minority women.

Although centers remain in Seattle, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and New Hampshire, they resemble the somewhat more traditional curriculum of Antioch College. "For most of the members of the Board of Trustees the real priority is rebuilding the college. Most of our alumnae are from the Yellow Springs campus and many of them think the centers were a mistake because they were too unconventional," says Keidel."Hard to believe about Antioch students, but that's what they say."

Originally the college's plan would be to bar any new enrollment, but after the directors of the graduate programs protested that such a move would weaken the attractiveness of the program to other schools, Antioch college relented. If all goes well, the feminist therapy program will be settling into a new home sometime early next year.

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BENNET'S "BLOOPERS"

REVIEWED BY SKYE MORRISON

Photo by Rich Gearharter

"I don't think I'm more offensive to gays and lesbians than to anyone else. I make fun of heterosexuals and their relationships so why shouldn't I make fun of homosexuals too? A lot of us have our cross to bear — lesbians don't have it rougher than anyone else. — Alex Bennet

And now, on Live 105 — this is the Alex Bennett show....

"Did you know that Michael Dukakis is really a lesbian? It's true — his family is from the island of Lesbos, so that makes him a lesbian. And he sure is anxious to lick Bush...."

Alex Bennett — homophobic or homosexual, free-thinking anarchist or sexist pig. Loved by some and despised by others, he is a guy who generates an enormous amount of controversy. Some people, it appears, wake up extra early in the morning just so they can call in and tell him how much they hate him. But his fans are loyal, his ratings high, and without a doubt Alex Bennett is a personality to contend with in the world of comedy.

For those of you not familiar with Bennett, he can be tuned in daily from six to ten a.m. He'll definitely wake you up — but whether or not you'll start the day smiling may depend on whether you see him as a satirist or a sexist. He is rakish and rude, and truly delights in putting down everyone and everything on the planet.

However, says Bennett, "The jokes are not mean. They're not anything that will hurt — or should hurt. And I think only a thin-skinned person wouldn't see that."

A major issue that quickly becomes apparent when talking with Bennett is that he doesn't know the difference between making fun of the status quo, taking a jab at the powers-that-be — and making fun of oppressed minorities.

One gay comedian said, "Alex says he puts down everyone, but that's like saying everyone's oppression is the same."

Which is exactly what Alex is saying.

"I don't think I'm more offensive to gays and lesbians than to anyone else. I make fun of heterosexuals and their relationships, so why shouldn't I make fun of homosexuals too? A lot of us have our cross to bear — lesbians don't have it rougher than anyone else."

There is only one issue that Bennett does not joke about, and that is AIDS. "There is nothing funny about AIDS and the only reason anyone would make an AIDS joke is because they're making fun of gays. So I made a rule on my show — no AIDS jokes. I started this policy way before other people were conscious about it, at a time when there was still a lot of AIDS jokes going around," he said.

Listeners of the show, guest comics and critics alike, all have one similiar comment about Bennett: he is a guy full of contradictions. One minute he'll be going on about the breasts on some "broad," and the next he'll criticize someone on the show for referring to adult females as girls. Bennett himself admits, "There is a kind of dichotomy about me, a contradiction, and I don't know if I can explain it. It's just my sense of humor."

Bennett seems to view himself as a socially and politically progressive man with an 'out-there' style of humor. But one local gay comic, I'll call him 'Greg,' said, "Alex is not a progressive. He's a liberal — in the worst sense of the word. He knows exactly what to say, but he doesn't live it. If he was a true progressive there wouldn't be any sexist jokes on his show."

It is true that of all the groups targeted, women are the ones most frequently insulted and objectified on the program, which is geared towards a young, white, straight, male audience. Bennett says the majority of his radio listeners are 25- to 30-year-old males.

But according to Ben Fong-Torres, Chronicle 'Radio Waves' columnist, "Alex is constantly defensive about the nature of his audience. The ratings indicate that it is primarily 12- to 24-year-olds who listen to his show. His own wishful vision is of a mature, sophisticated listening audience — not a bunch of adolescents just waiting for the next dirty joke."

Bennett credits the music on his show — not the style and content of the humor — for attracting a primarily male audience. But one of his ex-listeners, a woman who used to enjoy waking up to his raucous behavior, finally got so fed up with the sexist jokes that she called *Coming Up!* to complain about the program.

Ms. Goldstein (who doesn't want her first name used) said she knows of a lot of women who refuse to listen to the show because of his sexism.

"I'm sure he would say it's all in jest, just part of the show. But I've noticed that when it's close to home, like stuff about Jews, he gets very defensive. However, on other issues he's not at all sensitive."

One of the issues Goldstein finds particularly offensive is Bennett's on-the-air attitudes about fat women.

"Alex talks about fat women as if they're not worth shit because they're fat. Overweight women in this society have a bad enough self-image because of the way they're looked down on. We women make ourselves crazy over issues of food — we starve ourselves and get totally neurotic about it. The kind of stuff Alex does just encourages this tendency to abuse fat women."

Bennett says the intention of his show is primarily to entertain. Although he doesn't mind — and probably enjoys — making people angry and uncomfortable, he said, "I don't want to ever make someone feel lesser about themselves, feel hurt about what was said. Hopefully, they all walk away laughing."

Bennett rationalizes his fixation on breasts and his overall objectification of women by pointing out that he does a lot of penis jokes too. Men as well as women are made into sexual objects, he says, and that rather than perpetuating stereotypes he is, in fact, making fun of stereotypes. But giving men-as-sex-object equal air time does not equalize the issue. Jokes about penises and male sexuality do not perpetuate the objectification and oppression of men. As one lesbian critic put it, "Women will never look on men strolling down the street as 'walking penises.' However, many men still view women purely as objects for their own pleasure and as baby-making machines.

But Alex really doesn't get it. He thinks equal air time makes it all very democratic.

Fong-Torres comments, "Satirical, cynical humor is healthy for society. But especially for us in minorities, well — life is tough enough on us, we don't need to be the butt of this kind of humor. We don't need to wake up in the morning to hear put-downs that just increase the negative stereotypes we already have to suffer under."

If the show expresses no sensitivity to women, gays, and minorities, it comes as no surprise to 'Greg,' who says, "Comedy is the last bastion of the straight, white, male. They tend to talk to themselves. His show is a symptom of what is wrong with comedy today. You can close your eyes and all these comedians sound like the same person."

Bennett has two or three guest comics on his show most days and the comics are, in fact, usually white, usually straight, and almost always, male. But Bennett says he encourages women, gays and lesbians to be on the show, and mentions some performers like Karen Ripley, Tom Ammiano, Marga Gomez and Romanovsky and Phillips who have been his guests.

Ammiano, who has been on the show numerous times, credits Bennett with the AIDS work he's done and with the exposure he's given gay and lesbian comedians.

"We (gay comedians) are pioneers and acces to this cross-over audience is very important. It really benefits everyone — the straight audience has the chance to hear something that may be quite new for them, we performers get access time and have the opportunity to bash stereotypes against gays, and Alex provides something truly alternative to what's happening on other radio comedy shows," Ammiano said.

But 'Greg' doesn't think what Bennett has done is very significant. "If Alex has three guests comics on daily that's 60 comics a month he has on his show. So having a few gay and lesbian performers over the years does not mean much. It's merely tokenism. There are a lot of women comics out there and he should be doing more to get them on the air."

However, Bennett says there are not many decent female comics around. He says that women have not been socialized to be funny and to be able to make fools of themselves, but, he concedes, there are now more women starting to get into comedy.

"I've given women much more of a chance to survive on my show than I would give to an equivalent male. I've seen quite a few females through on my show over the years who real-

ly were off to a slow start on the show. But I figured that I'd see them through it because I wanted them to come across on the air and because I do know there's that inequality and lack of balance," he said.

But even when a woman does get on his show, there's a good chance she'll be overpowered by the other male comics, who seem to think if they talk loud enough and fast enough and long enough they'll be a hit with the audience.

Many of the women who have been on his show have the same comment: it's not enough to get on the show, once there you have to deal with Alex and probably two other male comics who are desperately trying to outdo each other. And the dialogue is directed to a mostly male studio audience and a mostly male listening audience. They're doing breast jokes and bimbo jokes and the women feel they have to either be quiet or come off sounding humorless, like schoolmarms censoring the boys.

The highly competitive, 'manic' nature is not the style most women feel comfortable jumping into and the dialogue is certainly not of the type most female comedians develop.

Fong-Torres says, "As a radio fiend who has enjoyed the medium all my life, his show is not my cup of tea. My idea of morning entertainment is not a bunch of guys taking over each other life they're in a locker room/peanut gallery. And often the laughter is on things I don't personally care to laugh about."

Bennett contends that he is playing a character on the air, a caricature of himself, and that he's really a much nicer guy out of the studio.

"As to my own personal life that's where I really care as to whether I'm sexist or not sexist, racist or not racist, what my politics are all about and how I live my life. And in this part of my life I'm very satisfied. I think I'm about as non-sexist a male as you'll find," he said.

That may be true, but Bennett, at age 48, has already been divorced three times. His current girlfriend is, "very beautiful, with an incredible body. She usually just wears jeans and big t-shirts — she doesn't need to show it off, cuz she knows what she's got under there."

In a two-and-a-half hour interview with *Coming Up!* this was the only reference he made to his girlfriend. Hey, Alex — what about her mind??

Although he still hopes to have children one day, he is not yet a father because, "I never married anyone I trusted enough to have children with."

Bennett said he's heard through gay friends that half the gay community thinks he's homophobic and the other half thinks he's homosexual. "It doesn't bother me that half think I'm gay, it only bothers me that half think I'm homophobic, he said.

Bennett grew up in San Francisco working in the theater and was always, he says, surrounded by a lot of gay people. "I think sexuality is an aesthetic choice. You either like the aesthetics of gay sex or you like the aesthetics of heterosexual sex. I think it's the difference between liking symmetry or liking contrast," he said.

Bennett says he's never viewed gays as being in any way different from straight people. But he feels that sometimes gays are very prejudiced and distrustful of heterosexuals.

"I think that gays in many cases care more about the fact that I'm heterosexual and I'm a breeder than I do about the fact thaty they're gay. It does swing both ways. There are some gays who are incredibly intolerant of heterosexuals and want to throw the mantle of homophobe on you at the drop of a hat because it makes them feel more justified in their hatred."

Bennett said he once had a homosexual experience in order to find out if he liked gay sex. He said that many men, "go through their entire lives worrying about whether or not they are gay. And this sometimes transposes itself to being afraid of gays or gay-bashing to prove they're not gay. So I got myself involved in a sexual situation with a man and found out that it didn't appeal to me. Now I can honestly say, 'No, I'm not gay.'"

However, rumor has it that Bennett and Ammiano are very, very close. During the interview Bennett did mention, "If I change my mind some day and become gay Tom will be the first man I'll go out with."

Bennett seems to put his foot in his mouth a lot — both one the air and off. He'll say something that sounds real progressive and then turn around and come off sounding pretty close to an Archie Bunker, according to one guest comic.

But even his critics feel obligated to pay him his due. Bennett has devoted a number of his programs to a discussion about AIDS, and, he says, he is the only one in his line of work who has spent so much time on the subject. His discussions have focused on the politics of AIDS and have been geared towards a heterosexual audience.

Bennett was a talk show host for years in New York City, where he specialized in news and politics. Fong-Torres said that Bennett was one of the first to come up with progressive FM radio talk shows.

But Bennett eventually burnt out on the serious approach. "I used to take everything very seriously. I was a raving leftist liberal on my talk show. But in all the years I did that show not one problem was solved, not one life was changed, nobody got freer. Did anything positive ever come out of all those hours of talk shows that featured some of the greatest leftist thinkers of our time?

"So one day I decided that maybe by entertaining people in a more positive manner there would be more of an effect. And I do think I've gotten more points across this way, and maybe changed a few people's minds.

"I think making people laugh is a truly revolutionary act and you don't have to attach to it any other politics."

Photo by Rich Gearharter

Photo by Barbara Maggiani (Courtesy People Are Talking)

Kowalski Testing Ordered

BY SKYE MORRISON

Close to one month has passed since Sharon Kowalski's 32nd birthday, a day honored in 21 cities across the country. Yet still she lies in a nursing home in Hibbing, Minnesota — the eye of the storm — while the controversy which has raged for five long years swirls about her.

"The case is about to break wide open," says Karen Thompson, who has fought tirelessly on Sharon's behalf since 1983. That was the year Sharon was in a car collison with a drunken driver — an accident which left her brain damaged, unable to walk and with severe communication difficulties.

At the time of the accident the two women had been living together for four years and considered themselves married. But when Sharon was injured Karen found that the court did not recognize their union. Sharon was declared mentally incompetent and her father was given legal guardianship. He immediately prohibited Karen from ever seeing his daughter again.

A major dispute in the case surrounds the issue of Sharon's mental competency. According to Minnesota law a disabled person has the right to a competency hearing once a year, but Sharon has not been tested since 1984. Karen has filed 19 court appeals and in February of this year the judge finally ruled that Sharon must be given a competency test.

Since the judge's order last February things have moved along at a snail's pace, with the Kowalskis doing everything in their power to stop the testing, Karen said. As recently as last month their lawyer called the judge to request extra time to file a motion against the advisability of a competency test. The judge granted them a week to file the motion, but then turned it down.

So as things stand today, on September 11th Sharon will be moved to the Miller Dwan Hospital in Duluth, Minnesota for about a week of tests. Further psychological testing will later be conducted at the nursing home in Hibbing. A report from the test is expected within a month after the work is completed.

"They're scared, they really didn't want this test to take place," Karen said. "I'm encouraged that maybe Sharon is fighting back, maybe she's hung in there and her parents and doctor are afraid that everyone will find out that Sharon is competent. They are losing control now.

"I think Dr. Wilson (Sharon's doctor at the nursing home) could be cited for malpractice. Things are catching up with them. They've got things to hide," Karen said.

Karen would like to be involved in the testing. There is medical documentation that Sharon consistently performed better when Karen was by her side. However, Karen is doubtful that she will be given the opportunity to participate. Even so, she says she is optimistic about the test because, "These doctors know that the whole world is watching now. Whatever they say will be heavily scrutinized.

"If nothing else I think Donald Kowalski has set himself up to be removed as her guardian. If the competency tests show that Sharon does in fact need a guardian the next issue will be to file a motion to get rid of Donald Kowalski. There are lots of grounds for removal," she said.

As Sharon's guardian, the court ordered Donald Kowalski to look into the purchase of an electric wheelchair for Sharon and a computer to facilitate communication. However, she still does not have access to this equipment. "They sure have got some accounting to do," Karen said.

In addition, there are questions about the mismanagement of money from Sharon's estate. There is the possibility, Karen said, that an initial settlement of $333,120 was awarded to Sharon's estate and has never been accounted for. The situation is currently under investigation.

In a further development, the mainstream, national press picked up the story this month. Up to this point only the gay and lesbian press have been following the case. But recently *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsday* and *Time Magazine*, among others, have carried extensive stories. Radio stations all over the country have picked up the story as well, and television shows like CBS This Morning, Larry King Live, and People Are Talking, have already given or are planning to give air-time to the case.

"The media is approaching it really well. They're dealing with it as a human rights issue," Karen said.

Most of this press coverage coincided with rallies that drew nearly 1200 people in 21 cities to celebrate Free Sharon Kowalski Day (her birthday). Karen says that all three major television networks covered the rally in Minnesota.

Thompson is currently in negotiations with a number of television producers to sell the rights to her story. "People are ready to see a love story between two people of the same sex. Issues of sexism, homophobia and handicapism should be dealt with on television," she said.

Although hesitant to discuss negotiations she did say that one of the major problems concerns her demand to have some control over the way the issues are presented. "I want to make sure none of the stereotypes are perpetuated in this movie," she said.

"This story can cross all lines — between men and women, gay and straight, the able-bodied and the differently abled. This is a story that can touch everyone to the core if it's done right.

"My intention in all of this is to get Sharon the best possible care and to educate people. I am committed to getting the story out in every way possible — as long as it's done right."

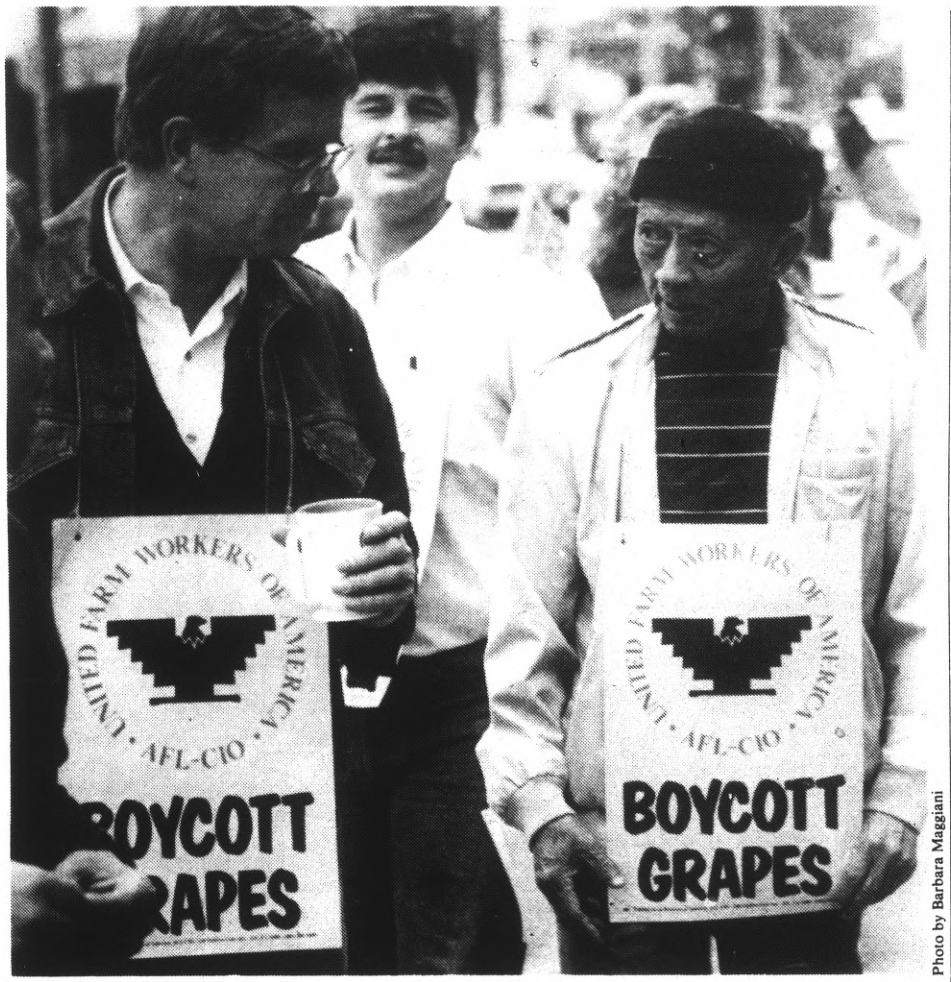

Photo by Barbara Maggiani

If Howard Wallace can do it you can, too. Keep those grapes off the table and out of your fridge.

The grape boycott is still going strong because farmworkers are still getting poisoned by federally sanctioned pesticides. And you thought the EPA was on your side. Don't forget to support the SF Supervisors fasting against grapes at Safeway.

Letters...

(continued from page 3)

Gorski has said that when we meet someone and are instantly completely nuts about them, that is probably the time to turn and walk the other way, because our codependent radar has found us someone who fits our unhealthy patterns.

To have sane relationships, we need to go into them sanely: to make friends first and take small risks before we take big ones. We have to learn to hold ourselves in high enough regard that when our guts let us know that someone isn't safe to share with, we can remove ourselves from the situation. No one is trapped in any relationship and no one has to settle for less than getting his/her needs met, although it can certainly feel like that when we don't know how to free ourselves.

Linda Atkins
San Francisco

No Food, No Favors, No Ritz

What is happening to BACW? The very idea of having a social function lasting from 8:30 P.M. until 2:00 A.M. and not having anything to snack on, much less to eat! Are you trying to kill the goose that laid the golden egg? The name "Puttin' on the Ritz" implies grandness, finery and all that is thought of when "puttin' on the ritz." The idea of spending $70.00 for a dance, no live music and/or entertainment, no food, no favors. What are you trying to prove? How fast BACW can become a *greedy* nothing organization?

I served on the Social Committee until 1986. We did lots of work to get the BACW social functions to be something to look forward to. I was told by a social committee member that it was decided to not have food because the quality was not up to par. Not a very good reason, in my opinion not to have any. I know from experience some people come and eat more than others. So it may seem there is not enough. That is to be expected. Having servers could alleviate that to some degree.

As professional business women, have you forgotten, "It takes money to make money."

Another thing to be taken into consideration, as hosts of a social function it is the organization's obligation to provide conditions to avoid problems like individuals drinking too much because they have not eaten anything for several hours.

Also I missed the introduction of the BACW officers, etc. Also the music didn't have enough variety. Missed the "Waltz" and other change of pace music that has been played in the past.

I sincerely hope these conditions are not repeated. I think this time there was 95% participation in regard to be dressed up. Please don't forget, just like BACW has grown, other groups can and will do as well or better. Never think you are the only game in town.

Just this past weekend, attended a banquet and dance with live music for $30.00 at the new Convention Center in Santa Clara.

One question: How much outreach is being done to Women of Color. Seemed to be very few at this dance. As women we need all the help we can get.

Looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Marlene Smith
former Social Committee member

BACW Responds

Thank you for taking the time to express your concerns about the well-being of BACW. As far as "Puttin' On the Ritz" is concerned:

We felt that attendees would have eaten at an event starting at 8:30 p.m. Based on the most recent survey of our membership, in which they stated that food at an event was not an issue, we believed it best not to raise the ticket price ($25 for members and $35 for non-members) by including food. Moreover, we have to use the caterer supplied by the facility. On the two previous occasions that we did so, we received nothing but complaints about the poor quality of the food. You are correct in stating that "grandness, finery" are images which arise around the "Ritz." So, we decided not to supply shoddy food.

Our intent is to serve the lesbian community. Hence, we keep our membership advised of our financial condition. Our Treasurer publishes an update bi-annually. They indicate that we are a "break-even" organization.

Our board is introduced at our annual Awards Dinner and at our Annual meeting. Many members felt that a dance was not the place to break up the evening with introductions. So, we decided to move this part of the evening into a more appropriate setting.

About the music — we hold out no hope of pleasing 1400 people! However, we do have two other dance events with only slow music — Golden Girls and New Year's Eve.

With regards to your final comment — as you know, our roster is confidential. Therefore, we have no idea what our ethnic mix is. All of our events are advertised. We encourage women of all races and ethnicities to attend.

Thank you for taking the time to write us. We are always pleased to see such interest coming from a former active member. We hope that you will renew your membership with BACW and become, again, a contributor in building our organizational strength.

Sincerely,
Alexandra "Alexa" Nickliss
BACW President

Stop Child Sexual Abuse Now

I was very deeply disturbed by the letters last month from advocates of NAMBLA, sex between adults and children, especially about the "lover of little girls" and boys "sexually initiating" children from age 6 up.

As a survivor of childhood sexual abuse myself, I know that sexual contact between adults and children, whether physical, visual, or verbal, whether it is "loving" or not, has major traumatic effects on the child. One in 3 girls and one in 5 boys suffer sexual abuse as children, usually taking years of pain and work as an adult to heal, sometimes a lifetime. The effects range from problems with adult sexuality and intimate relationships, self blame and self hatred, to alcohol, drug, or food addiciton, multiple personality, self mutilitation, and suicide. How dare you presume that if it feels OK to a child to be approached sexually by an adult, "lovingly and harmlessly" or otherwise. If you would like to find out how it is experienced by the child, read accounts by survivors of childhood sexual abuse, available in any bookstore.

Adults in our society are in a power relation to children which is reinforced by the physical size difference. There is no way that an adult man is going to be experienced by a child as "another child." Children have less verbal and physical ability to say no to adults, less psychic boundaries, less ability to grasp the implications of sexual situations. Even if a child experiences pleasurable sexual feeling with an adult, it is usually accompanied by shame, guilt, feelings of overwhelm and invasion. Children's sexuality is in a different state of development and expression than adult sexuality, and sexual approach by an adult to a child is an imposition and a violation. Children have the right to explore their own sexuality at their own level — to go about their own lives without fearing and being overwhelmed by adult sexuality. In our society, which implicitly condones sexual ownership and violation of children, especially girls, I am horrified at a group which openly advocates child molestation. I would hope that, as gay people oppressed for our own sexuality, we would have understanding and empathy for violated children.

It is no accident that most sexual abusers of children were also sexually abused themselves, thus making intimate sexual relationshis with an equal adult difficult, repeating their own sexual abuse on others, as it is safer and less vulnerable than relating to an equal in power. Child sexual abuse hurts, has hurt me deeply. I encourage advocates of sex between adults and children to stop and take the more brave path of examining and healing your own past.

Stop child sexual abuse now.

Kathie Bailey

Protest Operation Rescue Sept. 17

I am writing to protest police conduct in dealing with the illegal activities of the so-called Operation Rescue. (Operation Rescue is a nationwide campaign to stop women from having safe, legal abortions by physically blocking them from getting into clinics. It's being funded by people like Jerry Falwell). The particular incident I'm criticizing involved the Daly City police at Planned Parenthood on July 23rd. However, the issue is of current interest because Operation Rescue is planning to target East Bay abortion providers on Saturday, September 17.

On July 23, the Daly City police grossly neglected to protect the rights of the Daly City Planned Parenthood clients and staff while the clinic door was being blockaded by 135 anti-abortion demonstrators. I was there and was outraged by what I observed. The police took 4 hours to arrest the demonstrators. The police appeared to be doing everything as slowly as possible. They used only one or two small vans to transport the arrestees to the station, although 30 police cars were parked there. All the anti-abortionists arrested committed felony crimes by resisting arrest (by going limp) but the police only charged them with misdemeanors. At several points during the morning, the Operation Rescue leaders appeared to be giving directives to the police rather than the other way around. All this is in charp contrast to left-wing demonstrations, where it has been my experience that the police waste no time in arresting people and herding them onto big buses.

Although Planned Parenthood personnel and clients were extremely willing to cooperate with the police in order to gain access to the building, police were not willing to escort them into the building; police refused to clear a path to the door until after all the anti-abortion blockaders had been arrested. Clients and staff were forced to wait outside the whole time and were harassed by the demonstrators. Myself and several other of the 40 pro-choice supporters demanded that the rights of the staff and clients be respected, but our demands fell on deaf ears.

National and local leaders of Operation Rescue are planning to blockade abortion providers in the East Bay on Saturday, September 17. I encourage readers to contact their local police departments and tell them that they will not tolerate collusion between the police and the anti-abortionists, such as apparently happened in Daly City. Women seeking medical care, including abortions, have a right to not get harrassed.

Sincerely,
Deborah Gregg

Call for Censorship

Re: Dr. Jane Anne Leyland's letter in CU! (August):

1) Political groups did not "infiltrate" the parade — they applied and were openly accepted.

2) If Leyland finds political groups whose agendas she does not agree with "somber (and) negative" and "offensive," that's her subjective problem.

3) By insisting that some groups, who are in fact practicing coalition politics, "are not representative of Lesbian/Gay people in general" Leyland, aside from denigrating the idea and value of coalition politics, opens up a can of worms: Who's to say who is representative?

4) When she asserts that such groups "have no apparent relevance to Lesbian/Gay festivities" Leyland forgets that festivities can also include serious business, and why not when, as Louise Rafkin (same issue of CU!) notes, "Pentagon spending is $821 million more a day than has been spent ($426 million) since the beginning of the (AIDS) epidemic."

Since we live in a pluralistic democracy, expressions of our political variety should be encouraged, welcomed and applauded. Leyland's letter is a fearful and cowardly call for censorship.

Yours truly
John D. Dolan

Not a Revolting Lesbian

Although Jane Leland's letter in the last CU! was certainly revolting, we want to make it clear that she is *not* a Revolting Lesbian. She remarks that "once again our parade and celebration has been infiltrated with somber, negative, non-Gay political groups and interests." We consider such things as the May 21st "It is Right to Rebel" banner, with burning police cars, to be very gay and festive. Why does Leland assume that because we are concerned about racism, or Central America, or abortion, as parts of the lesbian and gay liberation struggle, that we are not gay?

Gay people are a part of every oppressed group and in every country. Every struggle against oppression is a part of our struggle. Leland says that by raising these issues we will get a "significant negative reaction from non-Gay power groups." Maybe Leland has enough privilege that she believes she can get help from the men in power. But for a vast majority of lesbians and gays in the world, the "power groups" are the problem. And if Leland's talking about kissing the power groups' ass, we're not going to pucker up.

Leland thinks from her own narrow perspective that she can define what are "basic Lesbian/Gay goals, such as spousal benefits for lovers." As for spousal benefits being a "basic issue," there are those of us who do not believe in marriage in any form — gay or straight. Health care benefits are everyone's right, gay or not, married or not.

We are amazed at Leland's arrogance that she can call for "excluding" groups whose goals differ from hers from "general Lesbian/Gay activities." This call is, itself, a certain kind of "negative, non-Gay" politics, called right-wing politics.

This parade celebrates the 19th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. The rebellion was sparked by mostly working-class Black and Puerto

Rican drag queens at the Stonewall, and carried on by dykes, queens, young gays, and street people (*not* by the more conservative gay community). With-out them, we wouldn't have the rights we *do* have today. It is their courage, and the courage of thousands of others like them, that we celebrate on Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day.

Revolting Lesbians
San Francisco

What's The Parade For?

As lesbians and gay men who have participated in the Liberation Contingent since the very first year of the Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade we take pride in the impact we have made in the struggle for human rights and freedom, for ourselves and other oppressed people here and around the world.

We know there are lesbians and gay men like Jane Leyland (Letters, CU! August) who feel that our parade should be limited so as not to generate a "significant negative reaction from non-gay power groups that are in the position to help obtain pro-gay legislation and governmental decisions" as Leyland puts it. Politely waiting around for those in power to take notice has never gotten us anywhere. It surely hasn't done anything for the 1,000's of people who have died from AIDS. On the other hand, history has shown us that when we take to the streets, our voices are heard.

Leyland comments that "foreign policy of the U.S. and internal domestic policy of other countries... are not at all relevant to gay interests and celebration." Hundreds of thousands of lesbians and gay men disagree. Look at the thousands of angry and militant demonstrators who convened in the Castro to protest the 3200 troops in Honduras and the threat of invasion in Nicaragua, attracting national media attention. Look at the 750,000 people who marched in Washington last October for legal recognition of our relationships, full reproductive rights for women, and an end to discrimination against people with AIDS and ARC, and an end to racism here and in South Africa.

Joining with progressive lesbians and gay men all over the country and around the world we demand "From Stonewall to Soweto to El Salvador, Liberation now!" and "We're Dykes and Faggots and We're Proud to Say, No to the Army and the KKK!" We're proud that we have played such a leading role in the fights against women's oppression, racism and U.S. intervention.

Leyland states that the Liberation Contingent's "inclusion and presence... can be offensive." What we find offensive is HIV-positive quarantining in Florida, abortion clinics being bombed around the country, KKK terror in upstate New York, and Nazi skinheads bashing gays in the Haight. The Right does not separate these issues and neither can we.

Everyone who saw the incredibly warm response we got as we marched knows that in fact we do represent our community. The growing numbers of lesbians and gay men cheering for us and chanting along with us are doing so because they also know that "silence = death" and "activism = life."

We think that it's outrageous that now, 19 years later, Leyland thinks that she can separate part of the lesbian and gay community from the parade. The parade began as a result of the Stonewall Rebellion, which was a fight for gay liberation. If the parade isn't for liberation today, then what is it for?

ACT UP, San Francisco
B.W.M.T. Political Awareness Ctte.
LAGAI, Lesibans and Gays Against Intervention
Out of Control
Revolting Lesbians
Women Against Imperialism, Lesbian Caucus

Thank You, *Coming Up*!

Out of Control: Women's Committee to Shut Down the Lexington Control Unit would like to thank *Coming Up!* and the people who supported the campaign to close the control unit in Lexington, Ky. (Please see our ad in the August issue of *Coming Up!*) On July 15 a partial victory was won in a civil suit against the Bureau of Prisons on behalf of three of the women prisoners, Silvia Baraldini, Sylvia Brown, and Susan Rosenberg. Judge Barrington Parker, a Federal District judge, ruled that the placement of prisoners in an isolation unit solely for their past political associations or personal political beliefs is a violation of their constitutional rights, according to the First Amendment. Judge Parker ordered that Silvia Baraldini and Susan Rosenberg be transferred to general population immediately. Public pressure brought against the control unit, through letters, phone calls, and demonstrations, was a major factor in the judge's decision.

Unfortunately Judge Parker ruled against the charge, also brought by the suit, that the control unit violated the Eighth Amendment, which prevents cruel and unusual punishment. He was apparently constrained by narrow Supreme Court and Appellate Court guidelines on the kinds of prison conditions that may be considered unconstitutional. This means that Sylvia Brown, who had not been placed in the unit for her political activities, will remain in the Lexington Control Unit. As part of the continuous harassment, prison officials have told Sylvia many times that she should not interact with the political prisoners, and that she would be the only one to get out of the control unit. Sylvia's friendship and solidarity with the poiitical women in Lexington will not be forgotten, and our campaign will continue to demand that the unit be shut down for all prisoners.

Alejandrina Torres, because of her position as a Puerto Rican Prisoner of War, had declined to participate in the lawsuit. As a member of the colonized Puerto Rican nation, she does not accept the authority of U.S. legal system to pass judgment on her. She and the other Puerto Rican POW's assert that their cases can only be resolved before an international legal authority such as the World Court. Alejandrina will remain in Lexington until the unit itself is closed.

Judge Parker was well aware of the government's plan to open a new high-security unit for women this summer in Marianna, Florida. Anticipating problems, he warned the Bureau of Prisons to be careful that conditions in the new unit "do not lead to wanton and unnecessary inflictions of psychological pain."

Silvia Baraldini will be moved to New York Metropolitan Correctional Center. This is unsatisfactory as MCC's are akin to city jails, and do not have the proper recreational and education facilities normally allowed long term prisoners. Presently Silvia is in Rochester, Minnesota for medical treatment. Susan Rosenberg is in D.C. where she is awaiting trial for a grand jury indictment charging her and six co-defendants with several political bombings supporting the liberation struggles of the people of Puerto Rico, South Africa, Central America, and Palestine, and protesting racism in the U.S. The proceedings have begun in an atmosphere of hysteria created by the government to dehumanize the political prisoners, and dub them as terrorists. The conditions they are being held under are horrendous, and an emergency campaign has been set up to draw attention to this type of harassment.

Out of Control Committee has always taken the position that any type of control unit for women or men is unacceptable in a prison system. We remain committed to this position. Anyone wishing more information can contact Out of Control Committee at 3543 18th Street, Box 30, SF 94110.

Julie Starobin
for Out of Control Committee

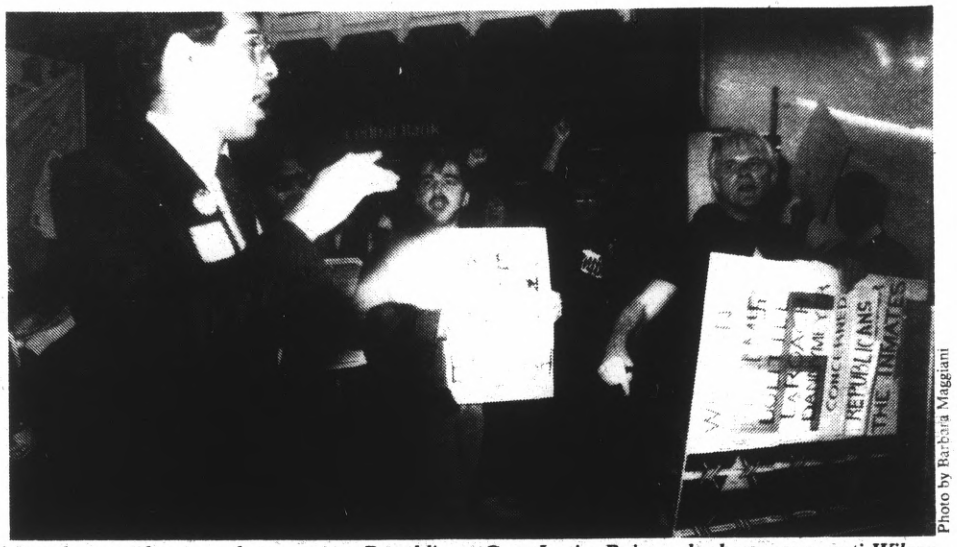

Photo by Barbara Maggiani

People not clear on the concept: Republican Gay Justin Raimondo harangues anti-Wilson demonstrators outside CRIR commemorative dinner. Senator Wilson's appearance at the CRIR dinner elicited an angry response from demonstrators opposing his duplicitious now-you-see-him-now-you-don't support for gay and lesbian rights.

Photo by Jill Posener

Defence of Shanti

The following is in response to the letters of Pat Kern and Ken Martin, which challenged the work of the Shanti Project and were published in August CU! 1988.

I will first address issues presented by Pat Kern.

Shanti, unlike our federal government, has not "essentially written off the infected," as you would have us believe. Although some of our elected officials consider the lives of people with AIDS to be unworthy of validity and preservation, Shanti volunteers provide support to people with AIDS, therefore reinforcing the worthiness and integrity of these individuals.

Implied thorughout your letter is a common misconception about Shanti that requires correction: Involvement with the Project is not analogous to death glorification. Emotional and practical support is provided equally through periods of healing and wellness and, also, during times of illness and dying.

Furthermore, you insist that "rather than to comfort the dying, we should pressure them to refuse death, demanding, begging and coercing them to use every remaining breath and moment of consciousness to try to stay alive." Your mandate is cruel and unjustifiable. Fears involving detachment and judgments concerning resignation must not be forced unfairly upon those who are burdened with life-threatening illnesses. Every person who lives in constant physical pain, without quality of life, deserves love and support, especially if and when he or she rightfully chooses to complete life, and open unto death.

Moreover, you declare that "Shanti work should be judged by the rate of survival of its clients; by this measure, Shanti stinks." The essence of Shanti work is support; by this standard must the work of the Project and its volunteers be judged.

Finally, you state that "No AIDS organization deserves support if its purpose is anything else but saving lives." Saving lives is invaluable. Encouragement, reassurance, comfort, practical services and unconditional love, free from judgment, provided to people with AIDS, maintain their survival with appreciation, dignity and hope. This, too, is invaluable.

I will now address issues presented by Ken Martin.

Individuals choose to work for non-profit social-service organizations, such as Shanti, instead of Financial District jobs, after determining personal values that must be met in the workplace For individuals who choose to value noncompetitiveness, compassion and a need to be of service, a job in the Financial District may, to use your words, "be a fate worse than death"!

You made reference to unnamed members of the Shanti staff as being "emotional houses of cards." Do you hold professional credentials that allow you to authorize this judgement? Have you shared with any Shanti staff members communication which supports your criticism?

In response to your sarcastic remarks regarding the "trainings" (quotation marks derogatorily yours): Upon what methods have your allegations been determined? Have you ever experienced a Shanti workshop or are you jumping on the bandwagon of recent sensational journalism?

Several additional points that you raise require clarification.

Jim Geary is not "deified" during trainings. His presence has been minimal during recent workshops. Throughout the trainings, volunteers are encouraged to move toward emotional intimacy in preparation for the emotionally intimate relationships that frequently develop between the volunteers and people with AIDS. The need for additional volunteers now is becoming even more urgent.

Shanti work also emphasizes direct support services. Included within the Project's fiscal budget are the residence, recreation and transportation programs that directly benefit people with AIDS. Contract money is now under negotation and donations to Shanti are even more necessary, to maintain these services.

I share, along with Kern, Martin and our community, immense and over-powering grief. I mourn for the loss of many personal loved ones and experience great sorrow for all lives lost. I am weary of reading obituaries and desire to become familiar with more individuals who live successfully, in health, with AIDS. I hope and pray, along with everyone, for a complete healing of AIDS, and a termination of all untimely illnesses and death.

I agree, with both Kern and Martin, that we must pursue research for cures and vaccinations. We are compelled to fight and insure that all people with AIDS receive the absolutely best possible services.

I acknowledge that Shanti may, like all organizations, have internal challenges to be met; however, I disagree with the attacks of Kern and Martin upon the work that the Project and its volunteers provide. While against press censorship, I question the motivation behind your letters and that of recent lurid exposés from journalists among our community, which are creating derision and divisiveness among us.

I know that the community supports the work that the Project and its volunteers provide. Marching with Shanti in the 1988 Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration, and experiencing the kisses, cheers, applause and overwhelming love of 250,000 spectators, appreciating the work that we provide, confirmed this beyond any doubt.

I am Rightfully Proud to be a committed Shanti Project volunteer.

Marc A. Lipschutz
San Francisco

Shanti Controversy Continues

Let me try to identify the corruption at the

(continued on next page)

Bay Area Career Women
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Women on the Threshold

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For each of three sessions, you will have seven workshops to choose from.

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SEPTEMBER 24

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ASTROLOGY

BY JACK FERTIG

Anybody for another quincunx? The 150-degree aspect is oddly persistent this year. Heaven knows the world is in bad need of adjustments — and any quincunx will help to aggravate conditions enough to force adjustment. This month the prevailing astrological aspect is Jupiter (in Gemini) quincunx Neptune (in Capricorn). This opens up a lot of spiritual and religious rationalizations and discussions of spiritual authority. A lot of this discussion will be well intentioned. It won't be entirely honest, but the deceptions will be largely unintentional. That goes for you, too. Check your facts, figures and motivations. It is all too easy, especially with Jupiter-Neptune aspects (and in an election season!) to do things for other people, to hide one's ego by identifying strongly with a cause. "No, no, no. This isn't for me at all! It's something I'm doing altruistically for the cause," is usually a lie even if the person who says it earnestly believes it. Don't trust anybody who isn't clear on her self-interest. Enlightened self-interest is acceptable and encouraged, but be real clear about it.

Sun Signs

Aries: It's very easy, perhaps much too easy to rationalize that there is money for the dream vacation or the education you've always wanted. Perhaps. It's easy to misjudge your actual resources. Just think twice about it. Be open to discussing very material realities and you'll be surprised at how easily philosophical questions can enter the discussion. Be ready to challenge your own ideas with new insights.

Taurus: Let yourself open up to new styles and new ways of imagining yourself. Try a little play acting in light social situations and you'll find yourself feeling stronger, self-assured, and sexier. Others will also see you in that light. Usually very direct and straightforward you'll find this a great time to learn the fun and advantage of projecting a little mystery.

Gemini: Feeling very confident with a deeply rooted sense of inner strengths you may rely too much on things you take for granted and confuse relationships with partners. This could lead all too easily to deception and confusion even if nobody wants it to get that way. Use your inner strengths to examine yourself and to share your deepest most challenging insights and self-perceptions with another person. Even if it sounds like you're just rehashing old issues, the mere act of talking them out will lead you to greater self-understanding and stronger ability to relate clearly with others.

Cancer: You're working hard towards some great and wonderful goal, but you may be a little unclear about the nature of your work and how that will actually accomplish your ends. The more sure of yourself you feel, the more certain it is that you're doing something wrong. Questions are very helpful and your friends will be as helpful as you give them a chance to be.

Leo: Social networking can be very helpful in your career, but be very careful about overdoing it. You can get all too easily into partying for the party's sake and forget your goals. One or two drinks can — in some cases — provide a productive congeniality, but be conservative. Your artistic abilities are certain to be noticed.

Virgo: Everybody needs to get away now and then, but there's a big difference between going on vacation and running away from your troubles. In the latter case they tend to follow and grow invisibly until they explode. If you do go away be sure to make sure you leave a neat and healthy situation to return to. Education seems especially attractive now, but be careful not to overload yourself.

Libra: You're often pictured (incorrectly) as the balance between good and evil. Right now you could be pictured correctly as juggling naughty and nice. You do have some wonderful opportunities and you're certain to be the topic of gossip, true or otherwise. This is also a good time to talk or write about some of the more challenging issues in your life. You may find faith to be a stronger quality than you'd imagined.

Scorpio: Feeling very sure of your own personal values, you may wonder about your partner's. Intuitive as you are it will be necessary to sit down and talk frankly. It will be very easy for you to read into any discussion a lot of misperceptions and non-existent problems. On the other hand ignoring your instincts will also create problems. Share your misapprehensions in an open tone that shows you questioning your own feelings rather than your partner's integrity.

Sagittarius: Your eagerness to be helpful at work may serve the best of intentions, but people can easily see you as trying to get a raise into a job that's already filled. Office politics can be such a sordid, ugly thing. The only way to stay out of it is to take your high ideals elsewhere. Rather than letting your co-workers misinterpret your altruism as misplaced ambition, help out the Shanti Project or somebody else who will welcome your energy.

Capricorn: This month signals a lot of fun, but you may have the best time simply being alone and quiet. Reading? Meditating? You may be invited to a lot of events, but feel free to say, "It sounds like fun, but I'm booked that night. Another time maybe?" or go ahead and have a convenient excuse to leave graciously if you find the chatter and crowd ill suited to your mood. If you do need to get out and socialize, but find parties dull and purposeless, you may find social productivity in some volunteer work.

Aquarius: Your home can be quite a social center, but be careful who you let in. You may find it more convenient to meet new aquaintances in a safer setting. Domestic issues can get quite involved now, so keep the cast of characters down to a minimum. You like to think yourself free of the past, but this is a good time to see how much of your ideals and goals are shaped by your family and background. You'll find yourself carrying baggage you were unaware of. Whether that includes useful tools or garbage to leave behind you'll have to figure for yourself.

Pisces: This is a good time to talk over your goals and aspirations in an explorative manner with someone you can trust. You may tend to blabber on the topic with people you barely know and then be surprised at what gets back to you. You may say different things to different people, just to check out the ideas. Then when conflicting stories get around to people who don't understand Pisces (almost everyone else) confusion will reign. Yes, you need to talk. Just be careful that whoever is listening understands.

Letters...

(continued from previous page)

heart of Shanti Project, which I feel is an emotional sickness which threatens the spiritual integrity of our community.

Shanti was a small experiment that soared out of control in the midst of an epidemic, unchecked and unexamined by City AIDS officials looking for the least expensive care package, or themselves under the influence of the Shanti "training." No health department that carefully examined the consequences of its actions would ever have endorsed Shanti to be a primary provider of AIDS services; most private donors would never give money to Shanti if they knew what goes on at Shanti "training."

"Simple, isn't it?" says a Shanti advertisement of August 5, 1988, soliciting volunteers. "Like cooking waffles. Or hugging a friend. Just volunteer for Shanti Project." The advertisement gives no indication that volunteers are required to undergo an intensive attempt at personality change to make them into the sort of people *Shanti* feels should be working with PWAs. That Jim Geary and his staff are manipulative amateurs makes their attempts at pseudo-therapy no less intrusive and inappropriate. At the trainings, volunteers learn to identify so strongly with PWAs, and to identify Shanti as their uniquely loving caregiver, that any criticism of Shanti is made to feel like a betrayal. Shanti attempts to extend this closed system to outside criticism: the bottom line argument against all criticism is that it harms services to PWAs. Shanti focuses on rejection of PWAs outside Shanti, although rejection by families and colleagues has been the exception in San Francisco. The ordinary decency of Shanti volunteers is depicted as unique and ex-

(continued on page 41)

COMING UP! CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE BAY AREA

SEPTEMBER

COMPILED BY
MAXINE MORRIS

1 ■ THURSDAY

Argentina: *The Broken Silence*—film, a sociopolitical documentary outlining Argentina's history from the Peron era to the present, tells the story of the dramatic struggle undertaken by the new democratic govt to break the chain of military dictatorships that have controlled Argentina for the last 50 years. Show screens 7 & 8:30 pm, tonight thru 9/4, $5. Opening night intro by the filmmaker (8:30 pm show), followed by live audience participation. Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St, SF. Info: 863-7576.

"Coming Out of the Double Closet" is the topic at tonight's discussion/social spons by BABN (Bay Area Bisexual Network). 7-9 pm, $3. Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St, SF. Info: 522-5553.

Coverup: *Behind the Iran-Contra Affair*—documentary film picks up where the IranContra hearings left off, exposes the substantial shadow govt trying to run US foreign affairs. Expose of the network of political eaders, drug smugglers, weapons dealers, hostages, assassinations, the FBI & the CIA. Film narrated by Elizabeth Montgomery, with music by Ruben Blades, Richard Elliot, Pink Floyd & Lou Reed. Tonight's No Calif premieres (7 & 9:15 pm) followed by wine & dessert reception & panel discussion with Barbara Honegger, former Reagan Administration policy analyst and Daniel Ellsberg. $15-20 SL. Proceeds benefit film distribution & SANE/FREEZE. Info: 621-0858. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St, SF.

BWMT West Bay Rap: see nat'l convention slideshow. 7:30-10 pm, 1350 Waller ST, SF. Info: Black & White Men Together 931-BWMT.

Palo Alto Lesbian Rap Group meets 7:30-9 pm at Palo Alto YWCA. Tonight's Game Night—bring your favorites! 4161 Alma St, Palo Alto. Info: Marilyn 969-1260.

Unbroken Ties: Lesbian Ex-Lovers: author Carol Becker reads from her new book & discusses what helps lesbians recover from the ending of lover relationships. 7:30 pm, free. Especially for women. Old Wives Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia St, SF. Wheelchair accessible. Please wear no scents. Call in adv for SIGN & CC. Info: 821-4675.

On the Job, labor cable show on SF Viacom Cable Channel 25, features a look at drug & AIDS testing on the job, and examines the future of railroad workers. 8 pm. Info: 433-4239.

Gala Dance production by Bay Area Dance Series. See all 20 companies in performance at Kaiser Auditorium in Oakland. 10 10th St. $20. Info: 895-7057.

Comedy Showcase at El Rio with host Sandy Van. 8-10 pm, $4. 3158 Mission St, SF. Info: 282-3325.

CAN (Community Action Network) examines the controversy surrounding **The Last Temptation of Christ** and homophobia in Hollywood films. 8:30 pm, SF Cable Channel 6. CAN is a program offering news/features from a gay/lesbian perspective.

Rape Crisis Ctr of West Contra Costa County seeks volunteers to work with the Child Assault Prevention Program in Contra Costa County public schools. Help children become confident & assertive, learn basic safety skills to help prevent assault. Volunteer positions also available on the 24-hr crisis line & in court advocacy & community education. Training starts in Sept. Info: 236-RAPE.

2 ■ FRIDAY

Phallic Church Service with Church of the Secret Gospel at 8 pm, followed by Fetish Event of the Week, 9 pm-midnight —display the fetish of your choice! Males 18+ welcome. Refreshments served. Info/location: 552-7339.

Parlez-Vous Francais? Soyez le bienvenu a nos reunions amicales qui ont lieu le premier vendredi de chaque mois. (All levels of proficiency welcome.) La reunion du 2 septembre sera chez Ruffin a 8 heures du soir a 285 Chestnut St (at Grant, Telegraph Hill).

Open Mic at Artemis Cafe. 1199 Valencia St, SF. 8 pm. Call 821-0232 for details.

3 ■ SATURDAY

May Lake/Yosemite Backpacking Trip with Wilderness Women. Spend Labor Day wkend in the splendor of Yosemite —beginners welcome! Limited to 25 women. Bears are a possibility. Info/res: Marilyn 540-6746.

Canoeing & Car Camping on the Russian River with SF Hiking Club: today thru 9/5. Private campground near Armstrong Woods & the Woods Resort. Sat picnic, Sun all-day canoe trip. Bring tents, sleeping bags, ground cloth, food. Campsite has rock hard ground, foam pad or air cushion for sleeping bag suggested. $18 transportation cost, $30/person covers campsite fee & canoe rental. Info: Philip 474-9895 after 6 pm.

The Stickers rock at Ireland's 32, 3920 Geary (at 3rd), SF. 9:30 pm-1:30 pm, free.

Pt Reyes Day Hike with SF Hiking Club: scenic, moderate 8 mile hike. Climb 800 ft on the Meadow Trail, enjoy great views along the Sky Trail, descend Baldy Trail, return thru redwoods & ferns along the Bear Valley Trail. Meet 9:30 am under BIG Safeway sign, Market & Dolores, SF. $8/car includes bridge toll. Bring lunch & water. Rain cancels. Info: 665-5578.

Lake Chabot Run with Eastbay Frontrunners. Take I-580 East to 150th Ave Exit. Turn left at 2nd traffic light onto Fairmont Dr, continue on Fairmont over hill. Lake Chabot Marina entrance on left. Parking fee in Marina, street parking is free. Meet 9:30 am at entrance end of parking lot. Mostly flat run. Info: 939-3579 or 261-3246.

At ATA (Artists Television Access): Russian Remix, Other Cinema: Eisenstein's "Bezhin Meadow", Phil Patiris' remix of Soviet cinema & TV, "Vykliuchit Telvisor" & more. 9:30 pm, $4. 992 Valencia St, SF. Info: 824-3890.

Kings Mountain Art Fair: thru Labor Day Wkend (9/3-5) at Kings Mtn Community Ctr/Fire Station, 13889 Skyline Blvd, Woodside. Outdoor show features works from over 120 artists from eight states. 25th anniverary of this carefully-juried crafts fair in Kings Mtn, a 15-mile stretch of beautiful forested land off Hwy 35 (Skyline Blvd). Free admission, food & drink available all day. Supervised crafts & game area for kids. Info: 851-2710.

Sausalito Art Festival 1988: annual Labor Day fest runs thru 9/5 at Bridgeway & Harbor Dr, next to the Bay Model & Visitor Ctr, Sausalito. 10 am-6 pm Sat-Sun.

Working Man's Fellowship: eve of South-of-Market camaraderie in the working costume of your choice. Sexy movies, refreshments, midnight snack. Males 18 + welcome. 10 pm-2 am. 746 Clementina St, Apt 2, SF. Info: 621-1887.

SF Wrestling Club Wkout: 11 am-1 pm, call Jim 538-8490 for info/location.

A Couple of DRAGOONIAS Inn Labor!? Watch a bunch of guys dress up in wild costumes and camp it up on stage. Lots of comedy and outrageous impersonations. This is a don't miss must see to be believed event for the River crowd. At the Santa Rosa Inn, 4302 Santa Rosa Ave (can you guess?) in Santa Rosa. Details, details: 707-584-0345

4 ■ SUNDAY

Salsa at El Rio with *Ponche*. 4-8 pm, $5. 3158 Mission St, SF. Info: 282-3325.

Cabaret at the Galleon: 5:30 pm, Mikio & Friends, $5. 718 14th St, SF. 5:30 pm, $5. Info/res: 431-0253.

Labor Day Potluck spons by Secret Gospel Church. Chow down with the guys on Clem St. Bring dish of your choice (to serve 15) & get in free, or pay $5. Movies & refreshments. Males 18 + welcome. 8 pm-1 am. 746 Clementina St, Apt 2, SF. Info: 621-1887.

Fire In the Fall, a woman's dance presented by Klazz Act. 9 pm-2 am at Park Place Restaurant, 558 Bellevue, on Lake Merritt in Oakl. Hors d'oeuvres, dancing, entertainment, no-host bar. Info/directions: 452-0113, 839-5817.

Sunset Blvd Run with SF Frontrunners: Meet 10 am at King Dr (South Dr in Golden Gate Park) & Sunset, SF for an easy, flat run along the boulevard. About 4 miles. Info: Margaret 821-3719 or Jim 922-1435.

Electric City, lesbian/gay video program, highlights the Dore Alley Faire, singer Hunter Davis, supervisorial candidate Pat Norman, and *The Blazing Redheads*. Also a look at gay domestic violence, a behind-the-scenes peek at Electric City, plus Electric City's new game show, "What's My Gender". 10 pm, Oakland cable channel 35. Program repeats 9/7 & 9/21 on PCTV Network, 9:30 pm. Info: 861-7131.

5 ■ MONDAY

AIDS/ARC Volunteer Program at Ft Miley VA Hospital (4150 Clement St, SF, near Cliff House) seeks volunteers to visit hospitalized patients and help in simple, non-medical & non-personal care tasks. Fundraising help also needed. Supervision & training provided. Minimum 2 hrs/wk, 6 month commitment needed. Vets & non-vets welcome to apply. Ft Miley is accessible by public transportation. Info: 750-2044 or 750-2144.

Southbay SOL (Slightly Older Lesbians) potluck at Nancy's in Campbell. 4 pm. Info/directions: (408) 866-6820.

Survivors of Sexual Assault: therapy support group spons by UC-SF Rape Education Prevention Program. Group for survivors of rape. Provides a safe & supportive environment in which to examine how the sexual assault continues to affect your life. Assault must have occurred 6 or more months ago. Group led by Deborah Rochelle-Williams, psychotherapist in private practice & at SF's Ctr for Special Problems. 12 sessions, $5-40 SL fee per session. Info/res: UCSF Rape Education Program 476-5222.

The Third Wave: Feminist Perspectives on Racism—call for submissions for an anthology edited by Jacqui Alexander, Sharon Day, Lisa Albrecht & Mab Segrest. Invited topics include (but are not limited to): dialogues among women of color on the differential effects of racism; racism & its connection to misogyny, anti-Semitism, class & homophobia; historical analyses & contemporary manifestations of racism; int'l perspectives on racism; impact of Reagan years on racism & racist policies; dialogues among white women on eliminating white supremacy; coalition politics among women of color & white women; explorations of how racial identities are shaped by culture; accounts of effective anti-racist organizing models, pedagogical anti-racist strategies. Deadline: 10/15/88. Length: no more than 25-30 pages, double-spaced. Send 5 copies to Sharon Day, 444 Lafayette Rd, St Paul, MN 55155.

Mon Eve Social: movies & refreshments, males 18+ welcome. 9-11 pm. 746 Clementina St, Apt 2, SF. Info: 621-1887.

Georgeous Woodside Run with SF Frontrunners. Meet 10 am, 485 Mountain Home Road in Woodside. To carpool & maps, meet 9 am at Church/Market Safeway in SF. Info: Margaret 821-3719, Jim 922-1435. Run followed by potluck/mtg.

6 ■ TUESDAY

Publication Party for the new City Lights Accordion Series. 5-7 pm at City Lights, 261 Colombus Ave, SF. Info: 362-8193.

Gay/Lesbian Sierrans Potluck Outings Mtg: get together with GLS leaders, get your ideas in for day & wkend trips. 6:30 pm potluck, 7:30 pm mtg. Come get involved! 577 14th St at Dolores, SF. Info: Steve 552-2916.

Southbay SOL (Slightly Older Lesbians) meet 7-9 pm at DeFrank Ctr, 1040 Park Ave (bet Race & Lincoln), San Jose. Tonight's topic: "From Lovers to Friends", a talk by Cindy Shapira, PhD. Info: (408) 293-4525 (leave message).

Metaphysics Goes to the Movies: 3rd in a series examining current cinema offerings from a metaphysical point of view. 7 pm, free. Presented by Rev Andrew Bozeman at Amron Metaphysical Ctr, 2254 Van Ness Ave, SF.

Community Women's Orchestra, an amateur ensemble spons by the Bay Area Women's Philharmonic seeks new members, especially for the string section. Fun, informal atmosphere with lots of music-making. Features works by women composers. Tues rehearsals, 7:30-9:30 pm, SF location (starting in Oct) for info call 626-4888.

Outlook: monthly lesbian & gay video magazine features news updates, political analyses, community events coverage & surprise guests. 8 pm, cable 30 in Mountain View, 10:35 pm, cable 29 in Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Los Altos & Mtn View, channel 20B in San Jose. Info: 968-1540.

Lesbians of Color Support Group meets at the Women's Bldg, 6:30-8:30 pm tonight & 9/13, 20. Meet new friends, discuss issues, share info. Facilitated by Midgett. Info: 431-1180.

Pianist Gus Gustavson at Le Piano Zinc, Tues thru Sept. 8:30 pm. 708 14th St, SF. Info: 431-5266.

Samba Pagode: samba at El Rio, 3158 Mission St, SF. Samba from El Rio & the countryside, plus videos from Carnaval in Rio. Tues thru Sept, 9 pm-midnight, $2. Info: 282-3325.

Craftswomen of Color: Women's Bldg of SF seeks craftswomen & artists of color to participate in the 10th Annual Celebration of Craftswomen, the largest juried show of women's crafts in the US. Deadline for application is today, call 431-1180 for info.

Asian Lesbians: Creating our own paths. KALX Lesbian Radio program, 90.7 FM. Noon-12:30 pm. Info: 642-1111.

Photo by Cammie Toloui

Terry Baum — One Fool Held Over! See Onstage

Twenty-Two on the Red — See Sept 17 for details

Flotilla for AIDS benefit — Sept 16-18

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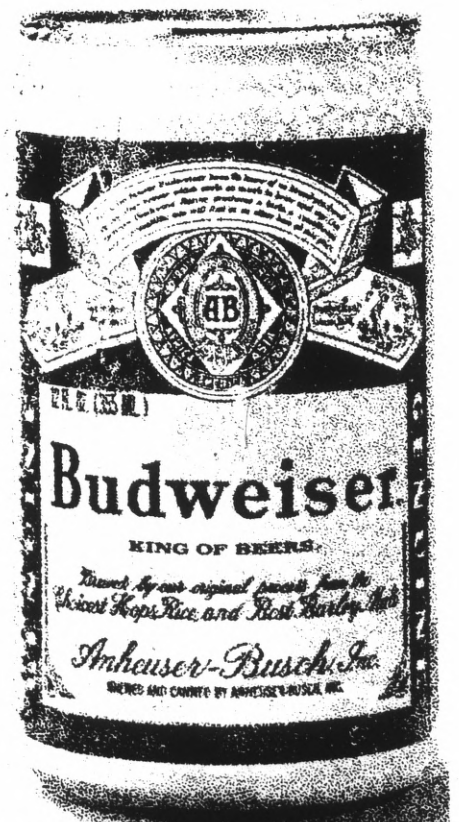

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7 ■ WEDNESDAY

And the Civil War Continues/South Africa: film series at the DeYoung Museum, Golden Gate Park, SF. Tonight's film: *Generations of Resistance*. 6:30 pm. Info: 750-3614.

Games Night at A Woman's Place Bookstore: 7-9 pm, 4015 Broadway St, Oakl. Bring your games, meet new women, have lots of fun! Info: 547-9920.

Fight the Block & Danneymeyer Initiatives (-96 & -102): open community mtg at 25 Van Ness Ave (at Market), SF. 3rd floor conference room. Info: 647-1146, 821-7097.

Jazz Fusion with a Caribbean touch at Great American Music Hall with *The Andy Narell Group* & special guests. 8:30 pm, $11 tonight & tmw. 859 O'Farrell St, SF. Info: 885-0750.

Female Trouble presents live music with *Industrial Rain Forest*. 9 pm, $3. DJ Cathy Cohn. 1821 Haight at Schrader, SF. Info: 221-9008.

Electric City lesbian/gay video program airs on PCTV Network, for program details see 9/4. 9:30 pm.

Therapeutic Value of Pets: talk by Faith Fitzgerald, MD. Learn how being around pets can lower blood pressure, increase physical activity & soothe loneliness. Noon-1 pm, free. Room 300, Health Sciences West Bldg, 513 Parnassus Ave, SF. Part of UCSF's Brown Bag Lecture Series. Info: 476-2557.

8 ■ THURSDAY

Women's Chorus Auditions: spons by SF State University, Women's Chorus of SF is dedicated to the rehearsal & performance of music written expressly for women's voices. All women with good musical ability & blendable singing voices are welcome. Info/appt: 566-8096.

Older Gay Men's Friendship Group meets 2:45 pm in the Friendship Room, 711 Eddy St, SF. Spons by Operation Concern's GLOE (Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elders). Group also meets 9/22. Info: 626-7000.

Heartsaver CPR Class at Bahai Ctr, 170 Valencia St, SF. 6-9:30 pm, free. Info/res: 431-9990.

Hospice Volunteer Program: deadline for applications for Garden Sullivan Hospital's program which provides emotional & practical support to patients with life-threatening diseases such as HIV infections, ALS & cancer. Minimum 4-hr commitment of 4 hours of service per week & attendance at 1 support mtg per month. Info/application: Ann Eby 921-6171.

Naturally, We Bake: baking classes (4 Thurs, 9/8-29) offered by Rob Villacari & Bob Starkey; an exploration of the wide world of natural baking. Topics include the uses of whole grain flour, natural sweeteners, leavening & baking techniques & strategies for converting standard white flour/white sugar recipes to more healthful alternatives. Variety of dietary needs considered. 4 classes/$60. SF Castro St location, plenty of parking. 6:30 pm. Info/res: 864-1141.

Palo Alto Lesbian Rap Group meets 7:30-9:30 pm at the Palo Alto YWCA. Tonight's topic: Ageism in the Lesbian Community. Baba Copper leads a discussion based on her book *Over The Hill*. 4161 Alma, Palo Alto. Info: Marilyn 969-1260.

Outlook: lesbian/gay video magazine features news updates, political analysis, community events coverage & special guests. 8 pm, cable channel 30, Mountain View. Info: 968-1540.

Bay Area Leatherdykes mtg: share feelings, fears & joys in our sexuality as s/m dykes; tips on safe sex & safe s/m. Tonight may be the last mtg of the group—make sure you're there to have your input in the last lesbian-only s/m support group in the Bay Area. Info/location: 654-1591. Lesbians only.

Frida Kahlo: *Portrait of an Artist*: KQED documentary profiles the life & work of this extraordinarily gifted Mexican feminist artist. Narrated by actor Edward James Olmos. Program airs 8 pm tonight & 10 pm tmw, KQED Channel 9. Info: 864-2000.

Jazz Fusion with *The Andy Narell Group* at Great American—see 9/7.

Tiny & Ruby: *Hell Divin' Women* and *Int'l Sweethearts of Rhythm*, two films directed by Greta Schiller & Andrea Weiss (directors of *Before Stonewall*) at the York Theatre thru 9/11. *Int'l Sweethearts of Rhythm* chronicles the rise & fall of the celebrated all-female, mostly Black, big band. *Tiny & Ruby* tells the story of Tina Davis, a celebrated trumpeter with the band, and Ruby, her lover of 42 years. Showtimes: 7:30 & 9:15 each eve, Sat & Sun matinees at 2:15, 4 & 5:45 pm. 2789 24th St, SF. Info: 626-8999.

BWMT West Bay Rap topic: "Sexism: Are we different from straight men?" 7:30-10 pm, 1350 Waller St, SF. Info: Black & White Men Together 931-BWMT.

Jazz guitarist Mimi Fox celebrates the release of her new album, "Against the Grain" at Yoshi's; concert includes Bay Area talents Curtis Ohlson, Rhiannon, Darol Anger, Juli Homi & Paul van Wageningen. 8 pm. 6030 Claremont Ave, Oakl. Info/res: 841-2672.

9 ■ FRIDAY

Legal Clinic for Lesbian & Gay Seniors: spons by Operation Concern's GLOE (Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Seniors) & Legal Assistance to the Elderly. Free. By appt only, for info/appt call 626-7000.

Frameline Presents: SF Viacom Cable Channel 25's lesbian & gay video program features *You Know All I Am*, an insightful & powerful documentary about being lesbian—collage of personal interviews for a heterosexual audience, answering many of the questions straights had about lesbians, but were afraid to ask. 8 pm. Info: Frameline 861-5245.

BWMT East Bay Rap topic: "Long Distance Loving? — How Far Can Love Span?" 7:30-10 pm, 3135 Courtland Ave, Oakl. Info: 261-7922.

Discovering Our Imaginal Selves: Fred Olsen leads an exploration of the Imaginal Self & its role in the development of health & creativity. 7:30-10 pm, $7. The Dream House, 395 Sussex St, SF. Info: 239-6906.

American Sign Language Class begins tonight at SF Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St, SF. Taught by a deaf woman & man. 7:30-9:30 pm, $3-5. Space limited to 10 people. Info/res: 647-3458. Both beginners & refreshers welcome.

Swing Wkshop for Gays & Lesbians: Fridays, 9/16, 23 & 30, 7:30-8:30 pm, $35. Beginners welcome! Jon Sims Ctr for Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St at 11th, SF. Info: 995-4962.

Tina & Ruby: *Hell Divin' Women* and *Int'l Sweethearts of Rhythm* at the York—see 9/8.

Special Eve for Women with singer/songwriter Betsy Rose: celebration of the release of her new album "Wings Against the Sky". 8 pm, $6-8 SL. Mama Bears, 6536 Telegraph Ave, Oakl. Info: 428-9684.

Outrageous Comedy & Music at Artemis Cafe with Monica Grant & Teresa Chandler. 8 pm, $5-7 SL. 1199 Valencia St, SF. Info: 821-0232.

Cultural Odyssey, contemporary music ensemble with Idris Ackamoor. 8 pm, $5. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom St, SF. Info: 626-5416.

Phallic Church Service at Church of the Secret Gospel, see 9/2.

Folksinger Tom Rush & guest Patty Larkin at Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St, SF. 8 pm, $12. Info: 885-0750.

"Nubian Princess Workhorse", a performance by Dee Russel at ATA (Artists Television Access). 8:30 pm, $4, tonight & tmw. 992 Valencia St, SF. Info: 824-3890.

Sisterspirit Women's Bookstore/Coffeehouse: hot gospel funk & soul with *The Washington Sisters* and Melanie Monsur. 8:30 pm, $4-8 SL. 1040 Park Ave, San Jose. Info: (408) 293-9372.

Dancer/Choreographer Deborah Lewis presents 2 wkends (9/9-10, 16-17) of original dance at Third Wave Theatre, 3316 24th St at Mission, SF. Program includes: "She Shells" a sensuous but amusing exploration of femininity thru the eyes of a mollusk; "Mosquito Motifo", an affectionate look at the insect everyone loves to hate & "Evolution" a satirical commentary on the maturation of woman. 8:30 pm, $8. Info/res: 665-8282.

1988 Bay Area Dance series features the Wendy Rogers Co & Macfarland/Whistler DanceArt Co at Laney College Theatre, 900 Fallon St, Oakl. $12. Thru 9/11—8:30 pm tonight & tmw. 2 pm Sun. Info: 895-7057.

All-Women Whitewater Rafting on the American River with Wilderness Women—paddle rafts along a whitewater stretch of the south fork of the American River. No experience necessary, just expect to get wet! Camp tonight, hit the rapids on Sat. $85 includes dinner, breakfast & camp fees. Info/res: Diana (707) 257-0126.

10 ■ SATURDAY

Southern Women's Alliance potluck/mtg for women of Southern heritage, & friends. Topic: a look at academic literature regarding what is being said & not said about Appalachian women. 4 pm. Info/location: 891-9410.

Southbay FLSG (Feminist Lesbian Social Group) September Potluck at Chay & Cassie's in Santa Clara. 7 pm. For info/directions: (408) 244-9477. Newcomers welcome!

Gay Men's Relationship Mixer: ready for a relationship with another man? At-

tend tonight's mixer—comfortable way to meet other high quality men thru small group discussions, personal sharing. Social hour follows. Doors open 7:15 pm, mixer starts at 7:30. $5. MCC-SF Social Hall, 150 Eureka St (3 blocks west of 18th & Castro) SF. Info: Partners Institute 343-8541.

Tiny & Ruby: *Hell Divin' Women* and *Int'l Sweethearts of Rhythm* at the York, see 9/8.

Ragtime Ball: 10th anniversary celebration with *Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band* at Oakland Veteran's Memorial Bldg, 200 Grand Ave, Oakl. Ragtime dance lessons & cakewalk contest. 8-11 pm, $8. Bar proceeds benefit the Names Project.

Kitty Barber at Artemis: rock, blues & ballads, from the political to the hilarious—8 pm, $6. 1199 Valencia St, SF. Info/res: 821-0232.

Debbie Fier in Concert at Mama Bears, 636 Telegraph Ave, Oakl. Along with Carolyn Brandy & Suzy Loraine. 8 pm, $5-7. Women only. Info: 428-9684.

Horn player Jack Wright at New Langton Arts: 8 pm, $5. 1246 Folsom St, SF. Info: 626-5416.

Slavyanka, Bay Area Men's Slavic Chorus, performs the music of Russian & Eastern Europe. 8 pm, $9 gen'l, $7 stdnts & srs, $1 addt'l at door. Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave, Berkeley. Info: 548-2687.

The Washington Sisters in Concert at Ollies, with Melanie Monsur. 8:30 pm, $8. 4130 Telegraph Ave, Oakland. Be there! Info: 653-6017.

Transcendental Transparencies, Other Cinema at ATA (Artists Television Access): see Kluge's "The Power of Feeling", Lynn Sach's Magic Lantern Slideshow, & more. 8:30 pm, $4. 992 Valencia St, SF. Info: 824-3890.

7th Annual Miss Haight/Ashbury Beauty Pagaent, with host Jeremy Kramer & color commentator Linda Hill. 20 beauties strut their stuff up & down the runway at Great American Music Hall as they compete in Evening Gown, Swimsuit, Talent & Extemporaneous speaking categories. Don't miss this special group of guys & gals, each uniquely talented—contest has no rules, so just about anything goes! 8:30 pm, $12. Tix at BASS. 759 O'Farrell St, SF.

Jazz Pianist Mark Levine at Le Piano Zinc, Sat thru Sept, 8:30 pm. 708 14th St. SF. Info: 431-5266.

"**Nubian Princess** Workhorse" at ATA—see 9/9.

Dancer/Choreographer Deborah Lewis performs at Third Wave Theatre, see 9/9.

Run Against the Klan: 5th annual 5 km & 10 km races, spons by the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee. 9 am at the Old Boathouse, Lake Merritt, Oakland (14th St & Lakeside). Concrete, fast & flat course, starts at Boathouse parking lot. Pick up race numbers 7:30-8:30 am. Awards to 1st, 2nd & 3rd place men, women & children. $10 day-of-race registration. Info: 431-8339.

"**Growing Economic** Inequality & its Impact on Civil Liberties", is the title of the 1988 ACLU-NC Annual Conference: 9 am-8:30 pm at Lone Mtn Conference Ctr, University of San Francisco. Wkshops, panel discussions, reception & dinner program. Keynote Speaker Angela Blackwell of Urban Strategies Institute. Wkshop topics: accessing medical & social services for poor & non-traditional families, the economics of AIDS, upcoming ballot measures, the "war on drugs" and more. Dinner program includes a discussion of the refugee experience by prize-winning poet & reporter Demetria Martinez. Other speakers include: Roberta Achtenberg, Marc Brown, Ed Chen, Mark Cloutier, Ramon Cortines, Tanis Dasher, Harry Edwards, Jed Emerson, Steve Graham, Donna Hitchens, Sam Karp, Ethel Long-Scott, George Raya, Alberto Saldamando, Lois Salisbury, Beverly Tucker, Dana Van Gorder & Andree Walton. Fee: $20 gen'l, $10 limited income. $6 lunch. CC available by reservation, the conference site (but not the guest rooms) is wheelchair accessible. Info: Marcia Gallo, ACLU-NC, 621-2493. Scholarships available.

Wooz Big Labyrinth trip with SF Hiking Club— come get lost in a maze! Explore Vacaville's Wooz Big Labyrinth—series of 3 mazes where you can lose yourself for hours—each maze has a different level of complexity— they can take from 3.5 min to 5.5 hours to get out of. For trip info call Philip 474-9895 after 6 pm.

Surviving the Healing Process: 2-day wkshop for women survivors of child sexual abuse. Provides practical tools for building your support system, assessing where you are in the healing process, taking care of yourself, celebrating victories. Facilitated by Laura Davis, co-author of *The Courage to Heal.* SF location. $75-100 SL. Info/res: 285-8724.

Big Basin Redwoods State Park Overnight Camping Trip with Black & White Men Together. Info: BWMT 931-BWMT.

Badminton Lovers Unite! We're going to be included in the 1990 Gay Games—let's get ready! Everyone welcome—from those who haven't played since school to those who play religiously every week—level of ability doesn't matter—get out the racket, dust off the birds, flex those muscles—interested? Call Judie Messier, Badminton Sports Rep for Team San Francisco, at 647-3204 (also give us a call if you know of a good place to practice, or you're interested in being a sponsor). Come join!

Redwood Park Run with Eastbay Frontrunners. Take I-80 to 35th Ave Exit. Go east (toward hills) on 35th Ave to Redwood Rd (35th Ave turns into Redwood). Stay on Redwood Rd approx 2.25 miles past Skyline Blvd. Redwood Park entrance is on left. Meet 9:30 am inside the park at the last parking lot (parking fee). Info: 939-3579, 261-3246.

Cultural Diversities: GLOE (Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elder's) Friendly Visitor Training program hosts a discussion on the issues of gay/lesbian seniors & ethnic minorities. 10 am-noon at Operation Concern, 1853 Market St, SF. Info: 626-7000.

American Indian Trade Fair & Exposition: annual all-Indian event, today & tmw at SF's Civic Ctr Plaza. 10 am-6 pm, admission free. Authentic Native American arts & crafts, including weavings, pottery, baskets, rugs, paintings, jewelry & specialty items. Also crafts demos, 14 dance groups, Native American foods, an inter-tribal powwow, drummers, singers & more. Info: 626-8122.

Flea Market/Crafts Fair at Dominican College of San Rafael. 10 am-3 pm in Caleruega Dining Hall patio & lawn area. Grand & Acacia Aves, San Rafael. Free. Info: 457-4440 ext 241.

Considering Adoption & Foster Parenting: wkshop spons by the Lesbian & Gay Parenting Project. Facilitated by people who have adopted publicly, privately or int'lly. 1-5 pm, $25. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka St, SF. $25. Info/res: 641-0220.

Phallic Fellowship at 746 Clementina St, Apt 2, SF. Eve of camaraderie in the best South-of-Market tradition. Sexy movies, refreshments, midnight snack. 10 pm-2 am. Males 18+ welcome. Info: 621-1887.

Therapists for Lesbian & Gay Concerns mtg/potluck, 11 am-1 pm. Presentation on Group Therapy. Info/location: Debbie 969-4853. TLGC is an organization of Bay Area women therapists.

16th Annual SF Blues Festival: today & tmw, 11:30 am-6 pm at the Great Meadow at Ft Mason (Marina Blvd at Laguna), SF. Today's lineup: Johnny Copeland, Koko Taylor, John Lee Hooker, Joe Louis Walker & *The Boss Talkers*; Lil Ed & *The Blues Imperials; The Super Harps; Chris Cain Band.* Tix: $11 adv, $13 at gate, $17 for 2-day tix. Tix at BASS. Info: 762-BASS.

11 SUNDAY

BABN Potluck Picnic: join Bay Area Bisexual Network for a picnic in Golden Gate Park (Old Speedway Meadow), SF. Noon-4 pm, $4. Bring picnic lunch. Info: 522-5553.

All-Woman Ropes Course spons by Wilderness Women. Near Ft Miley/SF. Safe, fun. $30. Space limited, call 469-7277 for info/res.

Community Healing Service spons by the AIDS Interfaith Network of the East Bay. 3 pm, Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 3755 13th Ave at Park Blvd, Oakl. Interdenominational service, all welcome. Info: 523-5011, 482-3937.

Unholy Alliances: booksigning & reading with editor Louise Rafkin & local contributors Barbara Selfridge, Joan Tollifson, Winn Gilmore, Jennifer Krebs & Canyon Sam. 3-5 pm, free. Women only. Mama Bears, 6536 Telegraph Ave, Oakl. Info: 428-9684.

Celebrity Rock ' Bowlathon spons/ by HEAR (Hearing Education Awareness for Rockers) Project. 4-9 pm at Rock 'n Bowl, 1855 Haight St, SF. Proceeds benefit the purchase of hearing screening devices for Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic. Info: 979-6263.

Brazilian & Pop at El Rio with *Voz.* 4-8 pm, $5. 3158 Mission St, SF. Info: 282-3325.

Cabaret at the Galleon: 5:30 pm, Scott Johnston, $5. 8:30 pm, Denise Erickson, $7. 718 14th St, SF. Info/res: 431-0253.

Asian/Pacific Lesbians: community mtg to plan 1989 National Retreat & Network. Come hear proposal, give your ideas, join together in this major community undertaking. Two mtgs: 9/11 & 9/25, downstairs at MCC, 48 Belcher St (bet 14th & Duboce), SF. 7-9 pm. Info: Trinity 626-6441 or MeiBeck 695-9239.

Tiny & Ruby: *Hell Divin' Women* and *Int'l Sweethearts of Rhythm* at the York. Final day! See 9/8 for details. Don't miss!

Acoustic Folk Music with Reilly & Maloney at Plowshares, Ft Mason Ctr, Bldg A, SF. 7:30 pm, $7 gen'l, $4 srs & children. Info: 441-8910.

Open Reading/Performance at A Woman's Place Bookstore: bring your poetry, art, voice, music & more! 7:30 pm, donations welcome. 4015 Broadway St, Oakl. Info: 547-9920.

Rosh Hashanah celebration with Congregation Sha'ar Zahav: 7:30 pm service at the Unitarian Ctr, Franklin & Geary Sts, SF. Wheelchair accessible, SIGN by request, CC by adv reg, call 861-6932. No charge for admission. donations welcomed.

Singer Faith Winthrop & pianist Gus Gustavson at Le Piano Zinc, Sun & Thurs thru Sept, 8:30 pm. 708 14th St, SF. Info: 431-5266.

Justin Herman Plaza Run with SF Frontrunners. Meet 10 am at the Plaza, behind the Hyatt Regency, SF. 4-5 miles to Muni Pier & back, absolutely flat. Info: Margaret 821-3719, Jim 922-1435.

Join Lesbian Birdwatchers for a great day by the bay, watching birds & picknicking at Pt Pinole Regional Park in Richmond. Bring lunch & liquids. Meet 10 am in the parking lot. Directions: Take I-80 to Hilltop Dr east, then north on San Pablo Ave to Atlas Rd. Info: Michele 654-7541. Newcomers welcome.

Mini Book Sale spons by Friends of the SF Public Library. 11 am-4 pm, Ft Mason Ctr, SF. All books on sale for 4/$1 or 30 cents each. Proceeds help fund free library programs, book acquisitions & special projects. Info: 558-3857.

Lesbian & Gay Families Picnic: Join Lesbian & Gay Parenting Project for a summer picnic at Lake Temescal—swimming, playground activities for kids. Bring a picnic lunch, look for the Rainbow Flag by the beach. 11 am-4 pm, SL fee—free-$1 for kids, $2 for adults. Info: 641-0220. Come have some fun!

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Monday, September 12. Children's Services 12:15 P.M.

Yom Kippur
Tuesday, September 20 Evening Services (Kol Nidre) 7:30 P.M.
Wednesday, September 21. Morning Services 10:00 A.M.
Wednesday, September 21. Children's Services 1:30 P.M.
Wednesday, September 21. Yizkor (Memorial) Ne'ilah (Concluding) 5:00 P.M.

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Opera in the Park: Placido Domingo headlines the 16th annual SF Examiner Opera in the Park concert. 2 pm in the Bandshell, Golden Gate Park, SF. Concert also features Puerto Rican bass Justino Diaz & American soprano Ruth Ann Swenson.
Men's Brunch for Older Gay Men (60+) & Friends: noon-3 pm, St Francis of Assisi, 145 Guerrero St, SF. Please bring food to share. Spons by Operation Concern's GLOE (Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elders). Info: 626-7000.
16th Annual SF Blues Fest continues (see 9/10). Today's lineup: Bobby Bland; Albert Collins & *The Ice Breakers;* Elvin Bishop; Carla Thomas with Mark Naftalin & *The Blue Monday Band;* CJ Chenier & *His Red Hot Louisiana Band;* Ron Thompson & *The Resistors;* Emmit Powell & *The Gospel Elites;* Chester D & Mike Henderson. Tix at BASS.

12 MONDAY

Women Bodyworkers' Class: free intro night for women who are already bodyworkers—to help refresh & revitalize your practice. 7:30-9:30 pm in the Eastbay. Info/res: Nina Maynard McIntosh 530-4559.
Bay Area Theatresports: with members of Faultline, Fratelli Bologna, Femprov, Riot Squad, Free Fall & Comedy Underground, plus other unsigned improv free agents. 3 nights of hilarious comedy improv (9/12, 19, & 26) at New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St, SF. 8 pm, $5. Info/res: 824-8220.
Western Star Dancers, SF-based square dance club for lesbians & gay men, and their friends; offer 15-wk square dance course for beginners. 8:15 pm-10:15 pm, $20 total (first 3 wks are free). Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave, SF. Info/res: James Ozanich 861-5689 or Anna Damiani 621-0862.
Weight Discrimination: have you experienced discrimination based soley on your weight? Documentation needed to amend current state civil rights laws to include "weight", thereby prohibiting further discrimination based on a person's body size. Please document & date the discrimination that happened, include all relevant information. Send to: "Weight" Put It On!, PO Box 2968, Santa Cruz, 95063. For info: (408) 423-4734.
Rosh Hashanah services with Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. 10 am (children's service at 1:30 pm), Unitarian Ctr, Franklin at Geary, SF. Wheelchair accessible, SIGN by request, CC by adv reg, call 861-6932 for info. No charge for admission, donations welcome.
Help Battered Women help themselves, by volunteering with WOMAN, Inc: SF battered women's agency which offers 24-hr crisis line, counseling services, legal clinics, walk-in centers, lesbian services & info & referrals. Volunteer training begins today, for info call Jeanie 864-4777. Women with daytime availability especially needed.
Women's Jobs Program, a counseling & support program for battered & formerly battered women, offers a series of employment wkshops starting today. Topics include: personal assessment, creative job search, how to interview successfully. Individual counseling available. Free. Spons by Rosalie House. SF location. Info: Yvette 255-0166.

13 TUESDAY

Heartsaver CPR Class at French Health Plan, 4131 Geary Blvd, SF. 6-9:30 pm, $2. Info/res: 589-2900 ext 254.
Keegan & Lloyd in 'Crawling Off-Broadway", a new vaudeville curtain-raiser, and "Passing on the Right and Other Accidents of Life", the odyssey of two men & their journey across the American continent, a combining of the emotional & physical problems faced by anyone embarking on a trip with someone else and the stories of lesbian & gay people who helped settle this country. 8 pm. Tonight's performance is a benefit for the AIDS Fdn Food Bank, $1 off tix if you bring a can of tuna or salmon. Life on the Water theatre, Ft Mason Ctr, SF. Info: 776-8999.
Int'l Lesbians & Gays of Color: discussion with Radical Women—a report on the Int'l Lesbians & Gay, People of Color Conference & the Native American Conference. 7:30 pm, SF State University, 19th & Holloway, SF. For exact location & other info: 864-1278. See you there!
"Using Acupressure for Common Ailments", a talk by acupressurist David Peterson, CMT. 7 pm, free. Amron Metaphysical Ctr, 2254 Van Ness Ave, SF.
Volunteer Info Night for Marin Rape Crisis: 7 pm. Come find out about volunteer opportunities—workers needed to provide crisis line & in-person counseling & advocacy. Training provided in all aspects of sexual assault including rape, child molest & incest, prevention, legal & medical procedures, counseling skills & victim needs. Attend tonight's mtg & find out how you can help. Volunteer training starts 9/27. Info: 454-3263.
Visioning & Creative Planning for Empowerment: work with ritual & traditional planning methods to envision, create & experience a unique understanding & plan for the next 5 years. Particularly useful for those at a crossroads in their lives, for businesses without a strategic plan & for those who want to make life changes. 7-10 pm, 9/13, 20 & 27. $10 per session. Info: Arinna Weisman MSOD 647-6638.
Southbay SOL (Slightly Older Lesbians) meet 7-9 pm at DeFrank Ctr, 1040 Park Ave (bet Race & Lincoln), San Jose. Tonight's Small Groups Discussion night. Newcomers welcome! Info: (408) 293-4525 (leave message).
The Art of Light & Color: lecture & slideshow on the development of light & color as seen in historical & contemporary paintings. Gain an insight into a new way to perceive/experience the "visual truth" of color. 7:30 pm, $2. Ft Mason Ctr Bldg C, room 215. Info: 931-9358. Taught by artist/teacher Susan Sarback. Lecture repeats on 9/20.
Gay/Lesbian Sierrans Business Mtg: help plan the functions/future of this group of over 600 women & 600 men. 7:30 pm, Sierra Club, Polk & Ellis, SF. Newcomers welcome!
Samba at El Rio—see 9/6.
KALX Lesbian Radio Show features "The Unladydykes", news, music & interviews with Magda. Noon-12:30 pm. 90.7 FM. Info: 642-1111.

14 WEDNESDAY

FLAG (Federal Lesbians & Gays) mtg at La Pinata, 510 Larkin St, SF. 6 pm, $2. Panel discussion: Election '88, a gay/lesbian perspective. No-host cocktails, free snacks. Bring a magazine for People with AIDS. All welcome, especially public employees. Info: 695-9174.
Rock-A-Boogie with Mitch Woods at DeYoung Museum, Golden Gate Park SF. 6:30 pm. Info: 750-3614.

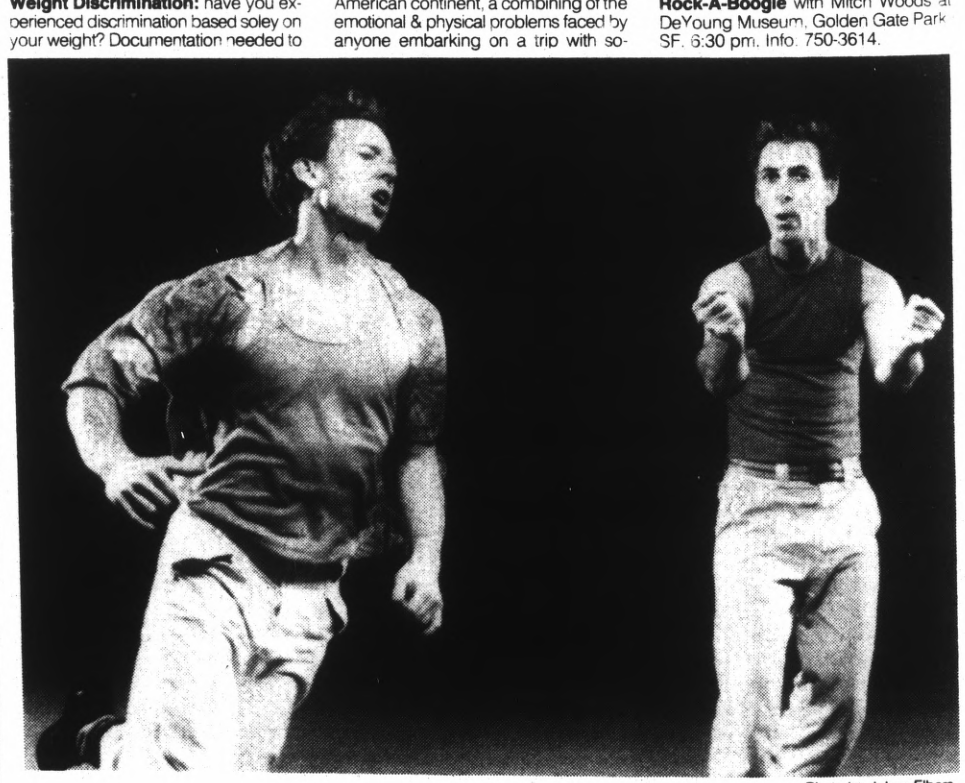

Photo by Johan Elbers

"Passing on the Right..."

Biko: Breaking the Silence: part of DeYoung Museum's "And the Civil War Continues/South Africa" film series. 6:30 pm. Golden Gate Park, SF. Info: 750-3614.

At ClaireLight Women's Books: "Contracts & Agreements for Daily Living", a talk by attorney MaryClare Lawrence. 7 pm, free. 1110 Petaluma Hill Rd, -5, Santa Rosa. Info: (707) 575-8879.

Incest Survivors Action Circle: for bi/lesbian women who have rejected, or were rejected by, politically correct groupies & therapies to, instead, work thru individually creative self-healing processes. Meet 7 pm tonight, and 4 pm 9/25, to share suppport for independent approaches, possibly collaborate in documentation of our alternative lifestyles. Action-oriented, non-12 Step, leaderless. SF location. Info: Shessa 826-5847.

Readings at Mama Bears by Wendy Mariott-Wilhelm's Autobiography Class. 7 pm, $4. Women only. 6536 Telegraph Ave, Oakl. Info: 428-9684.

Boss Driving You Crazy? Attend tonight's lecture at SF Jewish Community Ctr—work therapists Judy Watt & Chauncy Hare give a career lecture on "Solving Conflicts With Your Boss". Learn what to do when your boss ignores your needs & doesn't appreciate your work. Find creative methods to resolve conflicts, create positive changes. Case examples presented. Co-spons by Jewish Vocational Service. 7:30-9 pm, $5. 3200 California St, SF. Info: 346-6040.

"Writing & Finding Our Page in the Book of Life", a talk with Rabbi Zalman Schacter-Shalomi on spiritual & social responsibility & how to create a positive & rewarding life script. 7:30 pm, $10. SF Jewish Community Ctr, 3200 California St, SF. Info: 346-6040.

Author Sandy Boucher (*Heartwomen* and *The Notebooks of Leni Clare*) reads & discusses her new book *Turning the Wheel: American Women Creating the New Buddhism*. 7:30 pm, free. As You Like It Books, 2556 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley. Info: 848-2291.

French Jazz Violinist Stephane Grappelli at Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St, SF. 7:30 & 9:30 pm, $15. Tonight & tmw. Info: 885-0750.

Comedy Night at El Rio with Marga Gomez, Diane Amos & Josh Kornbluth. 8-10 pm, $4. 3158 Mission St, SF. Info: 282-3325.

Intimate Friends—rousing musical revue celebrating & affirming diverse lesbian & gay lifestyles. 8 pm Wed-Sat, 7 pm, Sun. $12 Wed-Thurs; $18 Fri-Sat; $15 Sun. Info: 762-2277.

15 ■ THURSDAY

Pizza Night II with Palo Alto Lesbian Rap Group—meet 6:30 pm at Applewood Pizza, 989 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (corner of Ravenswood). Info: Marilyn 969-1260.

Naturally, We Bake Class—see 9/8.

Preventative Law Wkshop on Co-Home Ownership Agreements. Topics include holding title, sharing (unequal) interests, providing for expenses, sale, and/or breakup, dispute resolution. 7-9 pm, $20. Info/res: Linda M Scaparotti, attorney at law, 268-8404.

Turning the Wheel: *American Women Creating the New Buddhism*. Author Sandy Boucher shows slides, reads from & discusses her new book on the recent burst of feminist activism among American women involved in Buddhist practice. 7:30 pm, free. Everyone welcome. Old Wives Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia St, SF. Wheelchair accessible. Please wear no scents. Call in adv for SIGN & CC. Info: 821-4675.

French Jazz Violinist Stephane Grappelli at Great American—see 9/14.

BWMT West Bay Rap: potluck & games. 7:30-10 pm, 1350 Waller St, SF. Info: 931-BWMT.

Outlook: gay & lesbian video magazine features news updates, political analysis, community events coverage & special guests. 8 pm, cable channel 30, Mountain View; 8:30 pm, cable channel 50, Oakland. Info: 968-1540.

Poets Judy Grahn & Gloria Anzaldua give a reading at the Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St, SF. 8 pm, $5-7 SL. Proceeds benefit the Latino AIDS Project, to be used to translate AIDS treatment info into Spanish. Reading spons by SF State Poetry Ctr. Info: 338-1527.

Author Joseph Heller lectures as part of Friends of the SF Public Library's 8th Annual Literary Events series at Herbst Theatre, SF. 8 pm, $13.50 & $11. Info: 552-3656.

South American Labor Struggles: "On the Job" labor cable show on SF Viacom channel 25, presents speakers & videos on the current conflicts & labor organizing in various South American countries, including Chile, Bolivia & Peru. Program also includes segment highlighting the art & politics of one of Mexico's greatest muralists, Diego Rivera, whose art gave center stage to labor & the culture of native peoples. 8 pm tonight & 9/29.

CAN (Community Action Network) on SF cable channel 6 offers news/features from a gay & lesbian perspective. Today's program: a look at Bette Midler's insult directed at the gay community; AIDS Walk corporations that give campaign money to William Dannemeyer & more. 8:30 pm.

16 ■ FRIDAY

Dream Talks: "Dream Discovery Tools", a talk with Ilona Marshall—intro to tools you can use to work with your dreams. 7:30-10 pm. $7. The Dream House, 395 Sussex St, SF. Info: 239-6906.

BWMT East Bay Potluck & Games Night: 7:30-10 pm, 3135 Courtland Ave, Oakl. Info: 261-7922.

Uhuru House Community Mtg to discuss Uhuru House's banning from last June's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. Two mtgs: 7:30 tonight at the Women's Bldg, 18th & Valencia, SF & 7:30 pm on 9/18 at Uhuru Bakery Cafe, 40th & Telegraph Ave, Oakl. Culture by the Oakland Uhuru Rappers. Info: 763-3342.

ET & the Upstarts: outrageous blues, rock & roll at Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St, SF. 8 pm, $6. Info: 821-0232.

Taking Shape: new works-in-progress by women, is a performance series dedicated to presenting women who perform & write original material. Solo performances followed by discussion. This month: a temp secretary fantasizes murder at 4:47 pm, will white-out do the trick? ...what universal meaning does a Salvadoran revolutionary take from a lesbian erotic poetry reading? ... can a cowboy shirt, the right haircut & imported shoes mean happiness for a sexy Italian performance artist? Brava! For Women in the Arts presents solo works in progress by Susan Van Allen, Diviana Ingravallo, Kim Fowler & Martivon Galindo at Centerspace Studio, 2840 Mariposa St (Project Artaud), SF. Post-performance discussion moderated by Adele Prandini & Amy Mueller. 9/16-17, 8 pm, $5. Info: 861-4515.

1988 Bay Area Dance Series presents dances by Betsy Kagan & Arturo Fernandez at Laney College Theatre, 900 Fallon St, Oakl. Thru 9/18—8:30 pm tonight & tmw, 2 pm on Sun. Info: 895-7057.

Dancer/Choreographer Deborah Lewis performs at Third Wave Theatre, see 9/9.

Flotilla for AIDS: all-day whitewater rafting trip on the South Fork of the American River. $65 includes all costs, including gourmet lunch picnic, optional bus from SF. Beginners & experienced rafters welcome. Proceeds benefit SF AIDS Fdn, Project Open Hand & Visiting Nurses & Hospice of SF. Today thru 9/18. For info: Flotilla Hotline 227-5566. Sponsorships for PWA's welcome.

Phallic Church Service—see 9/2.

17 ■ SATURDAY

Photo by Irene Young

Debbie Fier in Concert at Artemis, with Carolyn Brandy & Suzie Loraine. Eve of music ranging from New Age piano solos to Afro-Cuban drumming. 1199 Valencia St, SF. Info: 821-0232.

At ClaireLight Women's Books: Elaine Townsend & Band in Concert—8 pm, $4-8 SL. 1110 Petaluma Hill Rd -5, Santa Rosa. Info: (707) 575-8879.

Taking Shape: new works in progress by women— see 9/16.

Cellist Tom Cora—rock, jazz & new music at New Langton Arts: 8 pm, $5. 1246 Folsom St, SF. Info: 626-5416.

Lesbian Film Group: come see a film, meet new friends. Mtg in SF this month—call 891-9410 for info/location. 8 pm.

"Outercourse", images & self-images of women: a multimedia performance by vocalist/composer/visual artist Amy Neuberg. 8 pm, free. Mills College Concert Hall, Oakland. Info: 655-5983.

Twenty Two on the Red: an evening of Casino Gaming, Dancing & Heavenly Desserts to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund, Horizons Foundation & the Women's Cancer Resource Ctr. 8 pm-1:30 am, $40. Garden Court, Sheraton Palace Hotel, SF. Tix available at all Headlines stores. Call 441-3651 to charge by phone. Don't miss!

***Sukay* Celebrates** a decade of performing new & ancinet music from the Andes mountains of Peru, Bolivia & Ecuador. 8 pm, $8, $10 & $15. Herbst Theatre, Van Ness & McAllister, SF. Tix at BASS. STBS. Info: 552-3656.

Over Our Heads: lesbian comedy & music with Karen Ripley, Teresa Chandler, Annie Larson & Marion Damon— laugh yourself silly at Mama Bears, 6536 Telegraph Ave, Oakl. 8 pm, $6-8. Women only. Info: 428-9684.

Men of Color Conference II: "Healing the Illusion of Differences". Conference goal: to bring men of color together in a common ground of friendship, unity & concern; provide a forum to learn about similarities, celebrate differences, move towards positive action. Scheduled wkshops include: Men of Color in the Men's Movement; AIDS in Third World Communities; Communication Among Men of Color; Drugs, Alcohol & Violence; Bi-Racial Men of Color. Addt'l wkshops planned. 8:30 am-5:30 pm at Capp St Ctr, 362 Capp St (1 block south of Mission, bet 18th & 19th), SF. Space limited. Wheelchair accessible. Men of color of all ethnic, national backgrounds, ages & sexual preferences are welcome. Info: Bart Casimir 861-3237 or Ron Franklin 436-7435.

At Sisterspirit Women's Bookstore/Coffeehouse: concert with singer/songwriter Judy Fjell. 8:30 pm, $4-8 SL. 1040 Park Ave, San Jose. Info: 408-293-9372.

Ms Representation, Other Cinema at ATA (Artists Television Access): see "The Artist Was A Woman" and other films by women. 8:30 pm, $4. 992 Valencia St, SF. Info: 824-3890.

Dancer/Choreographer Deborah Lewis at Third Wave Theatre, see 9/9 for details.

Gay/Lesbian Sierrans Russian River Day Trip: 6-mile hike in Armstrong Woods, lunch at the ridgetop. Camping available on first-come, first-served basis at Austin Creek Campground. Optional dinner, dancing & hot tub at local resort following hike. Bring lunch & liquids. Meet 9 am at Church & Market Safeway for carpool. All welcome. Info: Pamela 431-5414.

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DANCIN' IN THE STREET

Flotilla for AIDS: see 9/16.
Badminton Lovers Unite! Join Team San Francisco & get ready for the 1990 Gay Games—see 9/10.
Kinky J/O: Radical Safesex Party for "slutcity gay male party animals who understand responsible promiscuity, kink & harddicks". 9 pm-2 am, $10 at door. Info/location: Mark 621-6294.
SF Wrestling Club Anniversary Party: come for a workout, potluck, sunning, swimming or just socializing! For info/location: Jim 821-9721 or Jim 538-8490.
Phallic Fellowship in the best South-of-Market tradition, see 9/10.
Your Wonder-Full Clown—2-day wkshop for those attracted to the power & magic of the clown's ability to laugh with life. Explore your natural capacity for curiosity, wonder & delight by taking a journey thru the clown's world. Wkshop for everyone, from novice to seasoned performer. 10:30 am-5:30 pm, today & tmw, $75-$135 SL (materials included). Led by Stephen Gunther, experienced clown performer & gestalt therapist. All Saints Church Hall, 1350 Waller (nr Masonic & Haight), SF. Spons by Footloose Dance Movement Theater. Info/res: Mary Alice Fry 648-2310.
Self-Defense for Kids & Adolescents: series offered by UC-SF Rape Prevention Education Program. 3 classes—today, 9/24 & 10/1. 10:30 am-12:30 pm for ages 7-10; 1-3 pm for ages 11-14. $30 for series. Topics include personal safety for home, school & public, personal rights & how to proect them, assertion skills thru demo & role play, physical self-protection techniques. Taught by Trisha Brinkman. Class size limited, call 476-5222 to register.
2nd Annual BBQ Picnic spons by UCGALA (Univ of Calif Gay & Lesbian Alumni Assoc). You bring food & drink, GALA will provide coals & condiments. Noon-6 pm at Tilden Park (island picnic area, nr Brazil bldg), Berkeley. $5. Info: 547-2200.

18 SUNDAY

Self-Defense for People Who Use Wheelchairs: 6-wk course offered by Hand to Hand, Kajukenbo Self Defense Ctr & Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program. Assertiveness training & practical self defense adapted to your needs. 1-3 pm, $50. Transportation provided in immediate area. Info/res: 428-0502.
Heartsaver CPR Class at Holy Name of Jesus Church, 3240 Lawton St, SF. 1-4:30 pm, $3. Info/res: 665-9526 after 6 pm.
Sonoma County Auction to benefit Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network & Veterans Care, a Sonoma/Marin vets organization. 2 pm. Also delicious buffet, prize drawings, entertainment by The Barbary Coast Cloggers & more. $5 admission tix includes raffle tix for grand prize, week for 2 in the Bahamas. Info: Rick Dean (707) 887-1581.
Cuban music at El Rio with *Tumbao y Cuerdas*. 4-8 pm, $5. 3158 Mission St, SF. Info: 282-3325.
Love In the Days of Rage: bookparty for Lawrence Ferlinghetti's new novel, a "work of lyricism & commitment, painting & politics, passion & intellect". 5-7 at City Lights Bookstore, 261 Columbus Ave, SF. Info: 362-8193.
Cabaret at the Galleon: 5:30 pm, *Menage* (call to confirm), $5. 8:30 pm, Ed Fonesca, $7. 718 14th St, SF. Info/res: 431-0253.
Bisexual Feminist Potluck: 7 pm, bring dish to share. Meet other bisexual women for dinner & conversation. 6 pm. Info/location: 522-5553.
"We Are Family" Women's Float Reunion: 10-yr reunion of all women participants in the organization/construction of the float. Share memories, slides & movie, maybe plant a seed for an anniversary float next year. 7 pm at Maud's, 937 Cole St, SF.
Women's Construction Brigade to Nicaragua seeks women to go to Nicaragua this year—attend tonight's slideshow at Casa Hispana & get details—7 pm, 4031 18th St (bet Noe & Castro), SF. Info: 821-7360.
Uhuru House Community Mtg—see 9/16 for details.
Dianne Davidson celebrates her soon-to-be-released Olivia Records album at Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St, SF. 8 pm, $10. Info: 885-0750.
Flotilla for AIDS—see 9/16.
Angel Island Run with SF Frontrunners. Take the SF or the Tiburon Ferry to Angel Island, meet at the East Garrison Station for a 4-mile run around the island. For mtg time & other info: Margaret 821-3719 or Jim 922-1435.
Sunday's Women: musical ritual to the Goddess, led by singer/composer Jennifer Berizan. Women only. 11:30 am-1:30 pm, Montclair Women's Club, 1650 Mountain Blvd, Oakl. Info: 444-7724.
AIDS Healing Alliance Wkshop: "Creating Peace for Healing," led by Mary Lambert & Ann Swigart. It can be difficult to heal if we are at war with ourselves & our environment or simply stuck in our guilt. Wkshop probes practical spiritual issues, nurtures participants to be at peace in their healing, practice self-understanding & forgiveness. Noon-4 pm, 4818 25th St, SF. Info: Jim Cox 346-0539.

19 MONDAY

At ClaireLight Women's Books: "Humor as Aikido"—How to use humor to increase self-confidence, reduce stress & fears, improve your ability to handle potentially embarrassing situations & lessen anxieties. A talk by Marge Penley, MFCC. 7 pm, free. 1110 Petaluma Hill Rd –5, Santa Rosa. Info: (707) 575-8879.
Meet the Authors series at SF Jewish Community Ctr features Scott Rice, creator of the int'lly known Bulwer-Lytton (Bad) Fiction Contest, and compiler of 3 volumes of contest entries (*It Was A Dark and Stormy Night; Son of It Was A Dark and Stormy Night* and *Bride of Dark and Stormy*). Mr Rice shares his views on contemporary literature—good and bad. Hosted by writer Steven Rosen. 7:30 pm, $3. 3200 California St, SF. Info: 346-6040.
Managing Your Money: A Guide for the Perplexed Investor: wkshop with Keith Briar, CPA and Catherine Seiwert, consultant. Step-by-step approach to establish & achieve financial objectives thru conservative investments. 7:30-9 pm, $5. SF Jewish Community Ctr, 3200 California St, SF. Info: 346-6040.
Keegan & Lloyd, NY performance art duo, present a program of West Coast premieres at Life on the Water theatre. "I Lead 3 Lives" focuses on the interrelationship between Lloyd's separate but overlapping careers of housepainter, schoolteacher & performance artist. "Bombay Lunch", Keegan's spoken diary with movement, is based on his 3-month journey to postmodern India. 8 pm tonight & tmw at Life on the Water, Ft Mason Ctr, SF. Info/tix: 776-8999.
Bay Area Theatresports at New Performance Gallery, see 9/12.
In Our Own Voices: Fat Dykes Break the Silence—contributions sought for an anthology of our experiences. Send narratives, essays, short stories, letters, journal entries, poems, cartoons, line drawings, graphics, black & white photos—all forms of expression welcome. Deadline: 1/1/89. Send to: Toni Cassista, PO Box 2968, Santa Cruz, CA 95063. Call (408) 423-4734 for info.
Demo at Concord Naval Weapons Station: sustained nonviolent blockade of arms shipments to Central America & the Third World. Today thru 9/23. For nonviolent direct action preparation, affinity group formation & other info/details, call Circle A Cluster 431-6041.

20 TUESDAY

AIDS & Insurance: a talk by Nat'l Gay Rights Advocates attorney Ben Schatz. 6 pm. The Love That Dares Bookshop, 506 Castro St, SF. Info: 552-5110.
Southbay SOL (Slightly Older Lesbians) meet 7-9 pm, Billy DeFrank Ctr, 1040 Park Ave (bet Race & Lincoln), San Jose. Tonight's program: Ballroom Dancing! — led by Nancy — don't miss, newcomers welcome! Info: (408) 293-4525 (leave message).
At ClaireLight Women's Books: "Aromatherapy", a talk by M Lavelle, cosmetologist & herbal enthusiast, on how we can increase quality of life thru the art of aromatherapy. 7 pm, free. 1110 Petaluma Hill Rd –5, Santa Rosa. Info: (707) 575-8879.
Erotic Sketch Night spons by Gay Men's Sketch Class. Beginning sketchers as well as fine artists welcome, bring your own pad & pencil. Model will provide an eve of erotic poses, starting out with sexually tinged poses, building up to 15 min hard dick poses, maybe more. 7-10 pm, $15. 1229 Folsom St (bet 8th & 9th), SF. Space limited, reservations & prepayment required. Info/res: Mark 621-6294.
The Art of Light & Color: eve lecture/slideshow with Susan Sarback, see 9/13.
Yom Kippur services with Congregation Sha'ar Zahav—Kol Nidre, 7:30 pm. Unitarian Church, Franklin at Geary, SF. Wheelchair accessble, SIGN by request, CC by adv reg. Donations welcome, no charge for admission. Info: 861-6932.
Gay/Lesbian Sierrans Program mtg, followed by social. See slides from Alaska, Chile, Peru. SIGN available with advance notice (call TDD 776-8107). Wheelchair accessible. 7:30 pm, Sierra Club, Polk & Ellis, SF.
Heartsaver CPR Class at District Health Ctr –3, 1525 Silver Ave, SF. 9 am-12:30 pm, $3. Info/res: 4681588.
Samba at El Rio, see 9/6.
KALX Lesbian Radio show: Venus interviews Dance Brigade. Noon-12:30 pm, 90.7 FM. Info: 642-1111.

21 WEDNESDAY

Yom Kippur services with Congregation Sha'ar Zahav: 5 pm, Yiskor & Ne'ilah (Memorial & Concluding) services. Led by Rabbi Yoel Kahn & members of the Ritual Committee. Admission free, donations accepted. Unitarian Ctr, Franklin at Geary, SF. Wheelchair accessible, SIGN by request, CC by adv reg, call 861-6932 for info.
Heartsaver CPR CLass at Mt Zion Hospital, 1600 Divisadero ST, SF. 6-9:30 pm, free. Info/res: 885-7710.
Nuclear Whales saxophone quartet at DeYoung Museum, Golden Gate Park, SF. 6:30 pm. Info: 750-3614.
Cry of Reason, part of DeYoung Museum's "And the Civil War Continues/South Africa" film series. 6:30 pm, Golden Gate Park, SF. Info: 750-3614.
Games Night at A Woman's Place Bookstore, 4015 Broadway St, Oakl. 7-9 pm. Info: 547-9920.
Rolfing Demo: find out what it's like to "get Rolfed". 7:30 pm, Eastbay location. Info/res: Nina Maynard McIntosh 530-4559.
Comedy Night at El Rio with Renee Hicks & other comics. 8-10 pm, $4. 3158 Mission St, SF. Info: 2823325.
Deep Dish TV, the nat'l alternative satellite network, presents "Agewise" a video about aging & the elderly. 8:30 pm, $2. 992 Valencia St, SF. Info: 824-3890.
Queen Ida & Her *Bon Temps Zydeco Band* at Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St, SF. 8:30 pm, $10. Info: 885-0750.
Electric City, lesbian/gay video program airs on PCTV Network, see 9/4 for program details. 9:30 pm.

22 THURSDAY

FAF Fall Seminar Lineup features series of seminars & wkshops covering screenwriting, directing & editing, and 16mm film production. Classes ongoing thru November. For info/res: Film Arts Foundation 552-6360/
Older Gay Men's Friendship group meets—see 9/8.
Naturally, We Bake Class, see 9/8.
Palo Alto Lesbian Rap Group meets 7:30-9:30 pm at the YWCA. Tonight's program: "Parents Come Out"—Pat Blumenthal, Phd, shows video of parents of gay children, followed by discussion of coming out to the folks. 4160 Alma, Palo Alto. Info: Marilyn 969-1260.
Alive & Well: *A Lesbian Health Guide*. Bookparty for authors Bonnie Gutierrez & Cuca Hepburn. Celebrate their new book, a guide for lesbians making decisions about their physical, emotional & mental health. 7:30 pm, free. Everyone welcome. Old Wives Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia St, SF. Wheelchair accessible. Please wear no scents. Call in adv for SIGN & CC. Info: 821-4675.
BWMT West Bay Rap topic: "Internalized Homophobia: What Have We Learned From Our Religions?" 7:30-10 pm, 1350 Waller St, SF. Info: BWMT 931-BWMT.
Carlos Fuentes, novelist & essayist, speaks as part of Friends of the SF Public Library's 8th Annual Literary Events series at Herbst Theatre, SF. 8 pm, $13.50 & $11. Info: 552-3656.
Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra Sept Concerts: tonight at 8 pm, First Methodist Church, Palo Alto; 9/23 at Herbst Theatre, SF, 8 pm; 9/24 at First Congregational Church, Berkeley, 8 pm & 9/25 at First Congregational Church, Berkeley, 7:30 pm. Program: JS Bach, Brandenberg Concerto No 3; CPE Bach, Flute Concerto in G, Symphony in C; JS Bach Brandenberg Concerto No 6, Brandenberg Concerto No 5. Tix: $13-20 at door or thru STBS. Info: 552-3656.
Frameline Presents, SF Viacom Cable Channel 25's lesbian & gay video program, features interview with the late Divine and John Waters. Show also features newscaster Dick Schapp hosting last spring's Tom Waddell Sports Banquet in San Diego and a salute to Geoffrey Beene. 8 pm. Info: Frameline 861-5245.
Threshold: an eve of solo dance, video & music to vitalize issues of people & communities facing AIDS. Tonight's performance benefits an oral history archive for performing artists facing life-threatening illnesses. Performers include: Jeff Friedman, Mitchell Loch, Scot Halpin & Carolyn Klismith. 8:30 pm, $10-25. Footwork, 3221 22nd St (bet Mission & Valencia), SF. Show runs tmw & 9/24, 8:30 & 10 pm, $7-10 SL. Info: 824-5044, 550-1271.
Hot Box at ATA (Artists Television Access) wkly series of videoart works. 8:30

pm, $4. 992 Valencia St, SF. Info: 824-3890.

Birthways Volunteer Training Orientation begins: Birthways provides services to expectant & new parents. Learn about the childbirth field, develop peer counseling skills, be around pregnant women, new mothers & babies. Seniors, men, babies—everyone welcome! 9:30 am-12:30 pm at Birthways, 3127 Telegraph Ave, Oakl. Info: 653-7300.

"Images of Women in Medieval Art", a lecture by Anne Simonsen at DeYoung Museum, Golden Gate Park, SF. 10 am. Info: 750-3614.

23 FRIDAY

ClaireLight Women's Books kicks of Banned Books Week with a reading from selections of banned & challenged books—come check out their display of books someone else doesn't want you to read—2-4 pm, 1110 Petaluma Hill Rd -5, Santa Rosa. Info: (707) 575-8879.

Leather/Pagan Piercing Ritual: celebrate the autumnal equinox with a spiritual exploration of transformation & ecstasy. Permanent piercing done by Jim Ward of Gauntlet. 7-11:30 pm, $10 at door. Space limited. For res/info: Mark 621-6294.

BWMT Eastbay Rap topic: "Sexism: Are we different from straight men?" 7:30-10 pm, 3135 Courtland Ave, Oakl. Info: 261-7922.

Dream Talks: "Basic Tips for Dreamers", a talk with Jill Gregory, author of *Dream Tips & Lucid Dreaming Tips*. Discuss how you can shape your individual dream life to support your personal growth. 7:30-10 pm, $7. Info: 239-6906.

Women in the Philippines: first-hand report, with video & slides, from the Women Against Imperialism delegation, just returned from the Phillipines. Learn about the project's of GABRIELA, the 50,000-member women's coalition of the Philippines. 7:30 pm, $4-10, proceeds benefit GABRIELA. Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St, SF. CC provided. Info: 995-4735.

A Musical Treat—Teresa Chandler at Mama Bears, 8 pm, $5-7. 6536 Telegraph Ave, Oakl. Women only. Info: 428-9684.

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in Concert in SF—see 9/22.

Retrospective Concert of Julian White's works for solo piano; performed by the composer & friends Sarah Hoefing & Glenn Cole Dalton. 8 pm at St John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave, Berkeley. Info: 525-9124.

Phallic Church Service with Church of the Secret Gospel, see 9/2.

Judy Fjell in Concert at Artemis Cafe: 8 pm, $6. 1199 Valencia St, SF. Info: 821-0232.

McFarland Ballet Theatre presents 4 eves of dance (9/23, 24 & 30; 10/1) at Theatre at Third Wave, 3316 24th St at Mission, SF. 8:30 pm, $8. Program: *White Swan Pas de Deux* and *Don Quixote Pas de Deux*, choreographed by Malchom McFarland after Marius Petipa. Guest choreographers include Marsha Wales Brown & Pepper Smith. Info: 474-4237.

Gala Anniversary Cruise for Community United Against Violence — dinner & dance cruise on the Bay to celebrate CUAV's 10th year. 7-10pm, $75 per person/$140 couples. Space limited — reserve now! Call 864-3112.

1988 Bay Area Dance series presents Dancers' Stage Co & Gary Palmer Dance Co at Laney College Theatre, 900 Fallon St, Oakl. Thru 9/25—8:30 pm tonight & tmw, 2 pm on Sun. $12. Info: 895-7057.

1st Nat'l Conference on Latina Health issues today thru 9/25 at Kaiser Convention Ctr & Laney College in Oakland. Conference & wkshops features bilingual (Spanish) educational & self-help perspectives & skills from all facets of latina health. Topics include: Physical & Psychological Violence Against Women—women & incest, family violence, sexual assault/harassment & women, women in prison & self-defense for women; Reproductive Health & Rights—woman's sexuality, family planning, women's choices, birth control & the church/religion, pro-choice, abuses to women due to technology, prenatal care, adolescent pregnancy, cultural & health alternatives—herbal remedies, acupuncture, curanderas, folk healers, homeopathic; Nutritional Value of Latino Foods; Mental Health & Latinas—depression & women, acculturation of Latina women, women & chemical dependency; Chronic Diseases & Conditions—stress, diet & economics, cancer & women, homeless women, pesticides & chemicals, disability; Latina Lesbian Health issues, Latina elders & more. Fees: professional $75 pre-reg, $85 on-site; non-professional & student $30 pre-reg, $35 on-site. Info/res: mail to Nat'l Latina Health Organizing Conference, PO Box 2567, Oakland, CA 94601

Fine cabaret with Caylia Chaiken, accompanied by Donald Eldon Wescoat on piano. Two shows: 9 & 10:30 pm, tonight & tmw. No cover, no drink minimum. Mason Street Wine Bar, 342 Mason St, SF. Info: 391-3454.

BurLEZk Lesbian Strip Show at the Woods Resort on the Russian River, part of Women's Wkend festivities. Hot show starts 11 pm—call 861-4723 for details. Blush Production.

24 SATURDAY

Badminton Lovers Unite! See 9/10.

Issues in Parenting School-Age Children: wkshop forum for exchanging ideas, clarifying toughts. Topics include: answering questions about insemination, biological roots; discussing sexuality, gender, moral & spiritual issues; new lovers; our families & school issues; helping children deal with being different. 2-5 pm, $15. 6501 Telegraph Ave, Oakl. Info/res: 641-0220.

Stop Gay Domestic Violence: MOVE (Men Overcoming Violence) volunteer training for men interested in counseling gay & bisexual men who batter & in learning to make presentations about gay domestic violence. Training begins today. For info/res: David Lee 626-6683.

At ClaireLight Women's Books: Carol Becker, Phd, author of *Broken Ties: Lesbian Ex-Lovers*, reads from her new book & discusses the stages of recovering from a break-up. 5 pm, free. 1110 Petaluma Hill Rd -5, Santa Rosa. Info: (707) 575-8879.

Blues & Jazz at Mama Bears with Mimi Fox & Suzanne Vencinzo. 8 pm, $5-7. 6536 Telegraph Ave, Oakl. Info: 428-9684.

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in concert in Berkeley—see 9/22.

Betty Kaplowitz at Artemis: provocative eve of fine music, with guests Michelle Krell & Abby Shearer. 8 pm, $5-7. 1199 Valencia St, SF. Info: 821-0232.

McFarland Ballet Theatre in SF—see 9/23.

Striptease East & West, Other Cinema at ATA (Artists Television Access): see "India Cabaret", Caitlin Manning's "Stripped Bare" & more. 8:30 pm, $5. 992 Valencia St, SF. Info: 824-3890.

Facing the Past with Power: a 6-hr wkshop focusing on moving on with strength from incest/childhood molestation. 9 am-4pm. Info: 621-5683.

2nd Annual Conference on Sexual Liberty & Socia Repressior Panelists & speakers include: Mark Thompson, author of *Gay Spirit*; Pat Califia, *Advocate* columnist & writer; activist Gayle Rubin; Bill Ingersoll of the ACLU; *Coming Up!* writer Joseph Bean; activists Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon; poet James Broughton; and attorney Linda Scaparotti. 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Service Employee's Union Hall, 240 Golden Gate Ave, SF. Info: Joseph Bean 863-0961, 626-8121.

BACW Women's Forum '88: Bay Area Career Women present a day of wkshops on issues of interest to lesbians. 9 am-4 pm, 536 Mission St, SF. Wkshop topics include: Lesbians In Mid-Life; How to Find a Stable Love Relationship; It Used to be So Hot... What Happened?; Lesbian Parenting; Travel Opportunities for Lesbians; Let's Buy Real Estate, and more—over 20 wkshops offered. Info/res: 495-5393.

Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Students: Facing the Facts/Meeting Their Needs. Day-long session at San Jose State University for educators, counselors, health professionals & family members to explore their fears about homosexuality; learn about the verbal, psychological & physical abuse gay & lesbian youth often experience. Panel discussion topics include: self-esteem, violence & silence; myths, misconceptions & statistics; stereotypes; biblical perspectives; family dynamics; self-identification; community resources & more. 9 am-5 pm, $48. Bring a sack lunch. All welcome, you don't have to attend SJSU to participate. Spons by SJSU Extended Education. Info: (408) 924-2600.

Strawberry Canyon Run with Eastbay Frontrunners. From UC Berkeley campus, take Piedmont Ave/Gayley Rd to Stadium Rim Way. Go east (uphill) to N Canyon Rd, continue uphill past tennis courts, botanical garden, Lawrence Hall of Science. Take sharp right to Space Sciences Bldg parking lot. Meet 9:30 am. Mostly flat, 3-4 mile loop. Info: 939-3579 or 261-3246.

Cabaret with Caylia Chaiken & Donald Eldon Wescoat, see 9/23.

Goddess Wkshop: artist/priestess Monica Sjoo, author of *The Great Cosmic Mother*, gives an all-day wkshop on the Goddess & her sacred sites. 10 am-5 pm, Berkeley Unitarian Church, 1924 Cedar at Bonita, Berkeley. For info/tix: 444-7724.

Garage Sale spons by Girth & Mirth Club of SF & NAAFA (Nat'l Assoc to Aid Fat Americans). 10 am-4 pm. Proceeds benefit both organizations. 4231 Montgomery St (nr Ridgeway), Oakl. Info: 820-2597.

Phallic Fellowship in SF—see 9/10.

Hortiphiles Potluck Brunch for lesbians & gays who enjoy plants. 11 am, SF location. Info: Michael (415) 826-2515 or Henrietta (408) 246-1117 or write Hortiphiles, PO Box 31, Palo Alto, 94301.

Finding the Right Man: 1-day wkshop in SF for gay men seeking a life partner. Clarify relationship goals, explore new ways of meeting quality men, develop a practical plan of action. $40. Info/res: Partners Institute 343-8541.

25 SUNDAY

"Folsom 5: Dancin' in the Sreets"—it's the 5th annual Folsom Street Fair! Lots of hot bands, dancing, hilarious comics & other fine entertainment & more. 11 am-7 pm, Folsom St bet 7th & 11th, SF. See you there.

Permanent Piercing at the Folsom St Fair by Jim Ward of Gauntlet—call Mark 621-6294 for info/res.

Bi-Friendly Great America Getaway: join other bisexuals for a day of rides plus a *Beach Boys* concert at Great America. Carpools leave SF at noon. Info/res: Karl: 753-0687

High Holy Days 5749

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Sunday, Sept. 11	*7:30pm*	*Erev Rosh Hashanah* *2174 Market Street*
Monday, Sept. 12	*10:30am*	*Rosh Hashanah* *150 Eureka Street* *Tashlich to follow*
Tuesday, Sept. 20	*7:30pm*	*Kol Nidre* *2174 Market Street*
Wednesday, Sept. 21	*10:30am* *4:00pm*	*Yom Kippur* *Mincha/Afternoon Service* *Yizkor/Memorial Service* *Ne'ilah, Break the fast to follow* *150 Eureka Street*

Childcare is provided. Wheelchair accessible. Sign language interpretation with 48 hour notice. Market Street services will be held at the Swedish American Hall, near Sanchez; Eureka Street services will be held at the Metropolitan Community Church, near 18th St., San Francisco. No charge, everyone is welcome. Regular Shabbat services at 8:15 every Friday evening and at 10:30 the second Saturday of each month.

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Women's Social for Older Lesbians (60+) & Friends: come enjoy music, dance, billiards, games & refreshments in a beautiful garden atmosphere. 3-6 pm at St Francis of Assisi, 145 Guerrero St, SF. Spons by Operation Concern's GLOE (Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elders). Info: 626-7000.
Fourth Fall Concert of the Society of Gay & Lesbian Composers: 3 pm at MCC-SF, 150 Eureka St, SF. Reception follows concert. Concert includes works by Robert Nofsinger, Jon O'Bergh, Matthew McQueen, Richard Wayland & Louis Sacriste. $7 at door. Info: 641-8003.
Tropical Variety at El Rio with *Tropical Breeze*. 4-8 pm, $5. 3158 Mission St, SF. Info: 282-3325.
Incest Survivors' Action Circle meets in SF at 4 pm, see 9/14 for details.
Australia: the Myth & the Reality: Australian activists Alison Thorne & Peter Murray present a firsthand account of life Down Under at today's public forum spons by Freedom Socialist Party & Radical Women. 4 pm, $2. Australian dinner served at 6:30 pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St, SF. Info: 864-1278 or 626-6182. Everyone welcome.
Cabaret at the Galleon: 5:30 pm, Scott Johnston, $5. 8:30 pm, Mikio Hirata, $7. 718 14th St, SF. Info/res: 431-0253.
Asian/Pacific Lesbians planning mtg for upcoming national retreat—see 9/11 for details.
Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in concert in Berkeley, see 9/22.
Bob Bossin, Canada's acclaimed singer/satirist, in concert at Plowshares Coffeehouse, Ft Mason Ctr Bldg A, SF. 7:30 pm. Info: 441-8910.
Irish Music at Great American Music Hall with Liam O'Flynn & Donal Lunny. 8 pm, $13.50. 859 O'Farrell St, SF. Info: 885-0750.
BWMT Annual Picnic at Redwood Regional Park in Oakland. Info: Black & White Men Together 931-BWMT.
Presidio Gate Run with SF Frontrunners. Meet 10 am at Presidio entrance on Pacific Ave, SF. 4 miles of rolling hills. Run followed by brunch & trip to the Folsom St Fair. Info: Margaret 821-3719 or Jim 922-1435.

26 MONDAY

Lesbian Couples: D Merilee Clunis & G Dorsey Green discuss their book charting the stages of lesbian relationships, the problems & joys of being in a couple. 6 pm, free. Especially for women. Old Wives Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia St, SF. Wheelchair accessible. Please wear no scents. Call in adv for SIGN & CC. Info: 821-4675.
Bay Area Theatresports at New Performance Gallery, see 9/12.
Women's Computer Literacy Ctr: 2-day, hands-on class (today & tmw, 8:45 am-5:30 pm) for women in the use of microcomputers for personal, organizational & business needs. Basic concepts & terminology, common software applications. Call 641-7007 for info/res. Class also offered 9/29-30.
Emergence Int'l: Christian Scientists Supporting Lesbians & Gay Men—5th annual conference to be held in Washington, DC 10/7-9. Conference theme: "We Are Not Alone: Our Emerging Sense of Community". Wkshops, speakers, tours. Join in the Names Quilt ceremonies which will be happening in Washington at the same time as the conference. For info/res write Emergence Int'l, PO Box 581, Kentfield, CA 94914-0581 or call 485-1881.

27 TUESDAY

Breaking Through to a Fulfilling Career: feeling stuck in a job or career that's going nowhere? This 3-part class is designed to help you break unconscious barriers to success, create for yourself a career which brings financial prosperity & fulfillment. Class led by meditators who bring a spiritual orientation to their work. Info/res: Leslie Lupinsky 526-1860 or Mark De Shazo 626-3131.
Marxist Feminism: Connecting Theory & Action: join Radical Women for a discussion on how marxism & feminism go together. 6:30 pm at SF State University, 1600 Holloway, SF. For exact location/info: 864-1278.
Southbay SOL (Slightly Older Lesbians) meet 7-9 pm, Billy DeFrank Community Ctr, 1040 Park Ave (bet Race & Lincoln), San Jose. Tonight's topic: Joyous & Empowering Interaction — small group discussions, talk by guest speaker Tina Solari, MFCC. Info: (408) 293-4525.
"Using Nature As a Path to Self-Discovery", slideshow talk by wildlife expert Tim Corcoran. 7 pm, free. Amron Metaphysical Ctr, 2254 Van Ness Ave, SF.
Songwriting Wkshop with Canadian satirist Bob Bossin, spons by Freedom Song Network. 7:30 pm, $4-8 SL. Julian Theatre, New College, 777 Valencia St (nr 18th), SF. Info/res: 431-7980.
Samba at El Rio, see 9/6.
"Grandmother Lodge"—wkshop/ritual with Brooke Medicine Eagle, native Earthkeeper, teacher, visionary & ritual leader. Wkshop for women, especially older women, includes drumming, chanting, gentle ritual movement, songs & stories. Grandmother Lodge is a celebration of the natural wisdom & power of post-menopausal women. Info/res: Jodi Sager 528-9433.
KALX Lesbian Radio show: Alicia discusses lesbians & the arts—where to, where from. Noon-12:30 pm, 90.7 FM. Info: 642-1111.

28 WEDNESDAY

Lief Sorbye: guitar, fiddle & vocals at DeYoung Museum, Golden Gate Park, SF. 6:30 pm. Info: 750-3614.
Woza Albert! Part of DeYoung Museum's "And the Civil War Continues/South Africa" film series. 6:30 pm. Golden Gate Park, SF. Info: 750-3614.
At ClaireLight Women's Books: an eve of bodywork & visualization with Gloria Biddle, MFCC & Nyla Fleig, MS. Learn techniques to reduce stress, restore body-mind integration. 7 pm, $4-6 SL. 1110 Petaluma Hill Rd -5, Santa Rosa. Info: (707) 575-8879.
Sanctuary Sukkot Celebration at SF Jewish Community Ctr: celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the SF Jewish Sanctuary Coalition for Central American refugees. Program features Sukkot rituals & blessings, Hebrew & Latin American folksongs, personal testimony from refugees. Please bring donations of dried beans & rice, hard cheese & cartons of eggs for needy families. 7 pm, free. SF Jewish Community Ctr, 3200 California St, SF. Info: 346-6040.
Games Night at A Woman's Place Bookstore, see 9/7.
Women, Sex & AIDS: a wkshop for women only. Led by Isabel Auerbach at SF Jewish Community Ctr. Learn what safe sex is, how to change unsafe behaviors, how to talk with partners about safe sex. 7:30 pm, $3. 3200 California St, SF. Info: 346-6040.
Healing Thru Improvising, Writing & Performing: a 8-wk class taught by Claire Blotter. 7:30-10:30 pm, St Paulus Hall Theater, Gough at Eddy St, SF. Sl fee. Info/res: 868-0589 by 9/21.
Meditative Music Concert at Mama Bears with Juanita Rukmini Oribello and Linda Sigel. Meditative music with ancient yogic chants, audience participation. Also original compositions on classical guitar & cello, plus works by Bach & contemporary composers. 7:30 pm, $6-8. Women only. Portion of proceeds benefit AIDS Project of the East Bay. 6536 Telegraph Ave, Oakl. Info: 428-9684.
Comedy Night at El Rio with comic Danny Williams & others. 8-10 pm, $4. 3158 Mission St, SF. Info: 282-3325.
Deep Dish TV at ATA (Artists Television Access): part one of the 4th Int'l Women's Day Video Festival. 8:30 pm, $2. 992 Valencia St, SF. Info: 824-3890.
2nd Nat'l AIDS Conference: today thru 10/1 in SF. Spons by SF Dept of Public Health. Conference focuses on how systems of AIDS education, prevention & care are designed, implemented & evaluated. Emphasis on the role of local health departments & their interaction with community-based organizations. Wkshops, panel discussion & speakers on a wide variety of AIDS-related topics. Civic Ctr Auditorium. Registration: $175/gen'l ($125 before Aug 15), $225 with CE credit ($175 before Aug 15). Complimentary for people with AIDS/ARC, $50 for nonprofit, community-based agency official staff (with proof of tax-exempt status). Space limited. Info/res: 255-1297.

29 THURSDAY

Naturally, We Bake Class, see 9/8.
Bertolucci Film Series begins at DeYoung Museum tonight with *1900*, starring Robert DeNiro, Burt Lancaster & Donald Sutherland. 7 pm. Golden Gate Park, SF. Info: 750-3614.
Buying Your First Home: crash course in real estate basics, taught by Steven Lyons. Designed to take the mystery out of buying your first home—topics covered include how to determine price range, house hunting & purchase offers, obtaining home loans. 7-9:30 pm at SF Jewish Community Ctr, 3200 California St, SF. $20. Info: 346-6040.
Bossin's Home Remedy for Nuclear War: a medicine show mix of theatre, music, magic & snake oil, guaranteed to prevent nuclear war or your money refunded—7:30 pm at La Pena, 3105 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley. Don't miss this performance by Bob Bossin, one of Canada's foremost writers of song & satire.
Film *Clandestine Destiny* premieres at the York Theater. By the Jaime Hermosillo, director of *Dona Herlinda and Her Son*, film takes place in Mexico at the turn of the next century. When a despondent young man wants to kill himself, his three friends, two men & a gay man, try to give him a new lease on life by having sex with him & one another. Sexy & funny film examines Mexico's personal & social issues. Film runs thru 10/2. 7:30 & 9:15 pm, with wkend matinees at 1:30, 3:30 & 5:30 pm. 2789 24th St, SF.
Palo Alto Lesbian Rap Group meet 7:30-9:30 pm at the YWCA. Tonight's topic: "S/M: Sexuality, Community & Culture", presentation by writer/activist Gayle Rubin. 4161 Alma, Palo Alto. Info: Marilyn 969-1260.
BWMT West Bay Rap: AIDS Task Force presentation. 7:30-10 pm, 1350 Waller St, SF. Info: Black & White Men Together 931-BWMT.
South American labor struggles is the focus of tonight's "On the Job", labor cable show—see 9/15.

Photo by Irene Young

Ilene Weiss, singer/songwriter from NY, performs at the Freight & Salvage, 1111 Addison St, Berkeley. 8 pm, $6. Info: 548-1761.
Outlook: gay & lesbian video magazine features news updates, political analysis, community events coverage & special guests. 8 pm, cable channel 30. Mountain View. Info: 968-1540.
Hot Box Videoart series at ATA (Artists Television Access) features Glen Flecderman's "Aufklarung (the Age of Enlightenment)", an introspective portrait of the fetid fascist mindset. 8:30 pm, $3. 992 Valencia St, SF. Info: 824-3890.
Women's Computer Literacy Ctr offers 2-day class for women—see 9/28.

30 FRIDAY

Antiquarian to Modern Bookfair to benefit Dominican College Library. 2-day Fair—5:30-10 pm today, 11:30 am-6:30 pm tmw, $5 admission (good for both days). Marin Civic Ctr. Info: 457-4440 ext 241.

Dream Talks: "Problem Solving With Dreams", a talk by Bob Trowbridge, editor of *Dream Network Bulletin*. Topics include dream physiology; healing with dreams; dreams & relationships, work, play, career & money; non-interpretive dreamwork and dreams & spirituality. 7:30-10 pm, $7. Info: 239-6906.

Ballads, Blues, Original Tunes plus other silliness from the heart—an eve with Glo Webel at Mama Bears, 6536 Telegraph Ave, Oakl. 8 pm, $5. Women only. Info: 428-9684.

Singer/Songwriter Charlene Mason at Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St, SF. 8 pm, $5. Info: 821-0232.

Phallic Church Service with Church of the Secret Gospel, see 9/2.

McFarland Ballet Theatre in SF—see 9/23.

At Sisterspirit Women's Bookstore/Coffeehouse: Terry Baum presents her one-woman show, "One Fool", the story of the trials & tribulations of one dyke searching desperately for love, unfortunately confusing it with good sex. 8:30 pm, $5-10 SL. 1040 Park Ave, San Jose. Info: (408) 293-9372.

1988 Bay Area Dance series presents CitiCentre Dance Theatre & Fua Dia Congo at Laney College Theatre, 900 Fallon St, Oakl. Thru 10/2—8:30 pm tonight & tmw, 2 pm on Sun. $12. Info: 895-7057.

GALLERIES

Photo by Totox Rocamova

Frontline Photography: from Palestine to the Phillipines, from the Gay/Lesbian movement to the Jackson Campaign, over 80 images on display. 9/21-10/15. Reception 9/23, 6-8pm, 1151 Mission, SF. Info: 431-6911.

"Pandora" by William Maxwell. Installation on exhibit in the lagoon at Palace of Fine Arts. 9/8-2/8.

"Women of Valor: the Story of Hadassah, 1912-1987" on exhibit at Jewish Community Museum, 121 Steuart St, SF. Info: 543-8880.

"The Art of the New Yorker: a 60 Year Retrospective" on exhibit at Calif Palace of the Legion of Honor. Thru 11/20. Golden Gate Park, SF. Info: 750-3614.

"Systems for Neo-Pagans" by Alan Rath. An interactive computer & cathode tube installation. Opening reception 9/6, 6-8 pm. On exhibit 9/6-10/8 at New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom St, SF. Info: 626-5416.

Sculpture by John Souza & Paintings by Kyenan Kum. Thru 9/24 at Pro Arts, 1290 Union St. Oakland.

Cactus Hearts/Barbed Wire Dreams: media myths & Mexicans. Provocative exhibit explores the stereotypes of Mexicans as portrayed in media, advertising & common household objects. 9/6-10/1. Reception for curator Yolanda Lopez on 9/9, 7-9:30 pm. Galeria de la Raza/Studio 24, 2857 24th St, SF. Info: 826-8009.

Metal Sculpture by Dennis Luedeman on exhibit at Hatley Martin Gallery, 41 Powell St, SF. 9/7-10/7, opening reception on 9/8, 5:30-7:30 pm. Info: 392-1015.

Original Paintings, graphics, sculpture art-to-wear jewelry by Victor Vasarely on exhibit at Circle Gallery, 140 Maiden Lane, SF. Opening reception 9/15, 5-8 pm. Exhibit runs thru 10/8. Info: 989-2100.

"Paintings from Milan" by Timothy Beck. On exhibit at Fobbo Gallery thru 9/25. 3747 23rd St, SF. Info: 695-0640.

ON STAGE

Photo by Steve Savage

It's Only A Play by Terrence McNally. Hilarious comedy—a satire & a salute to theatre and the zanily intense characters who make it their home. Runs 9/10-10/15. 8 pm Wed-Sun; Sun matinees on 9/25, 10/2 & 9, 3 pm. Tix: $10 Wed-Sun; $12 Fri & Sat. Theatre Rhino production. 2926 16th St, SF. Info: 861-5079.

"A Couple of Blaguards" an eve of song, sermon & story performed by Malachy & Frank McCourt. Opens 9/14, runs Tues-Fri at 8 pm; Sat at 7 & 9:30 pm, Sun at 3 pm thru 10/30. Tix: $16.50 Tues-Thurs & Sun; $18.50 Fri & Sat. Zephyr Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave, SF. Info: 861-6895.

Where's Charlie? Frank Loesser's 1948 musical. Opens 9/17, Runs Fri-Sun thru 10/23. 8:30 pm Fri & Sat, 2:30 pm Sun. Tix: $16. Lamplighters' production.

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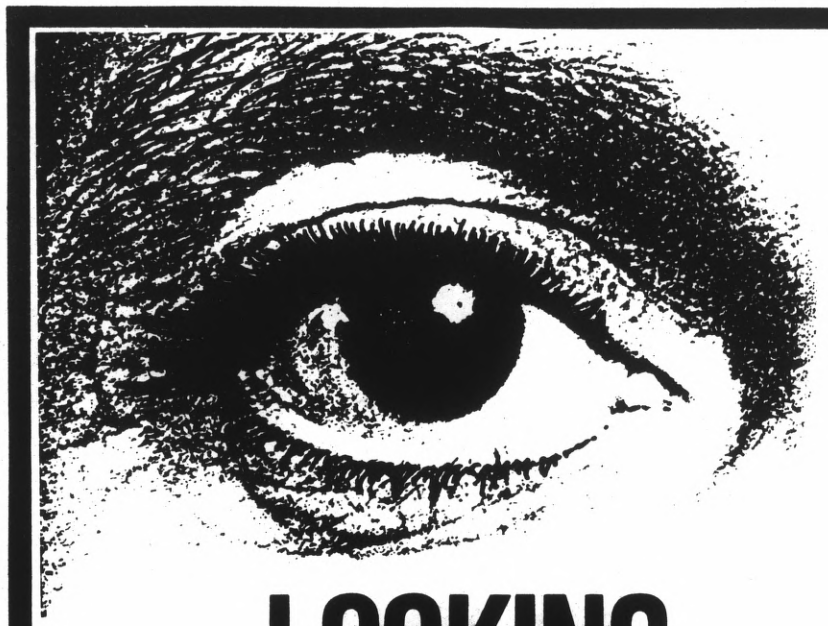

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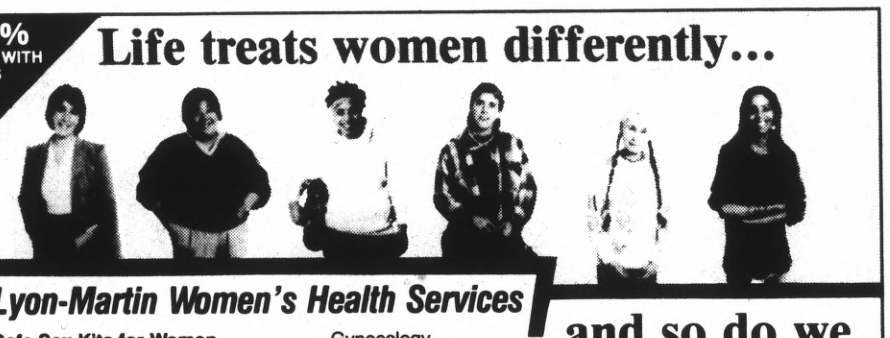

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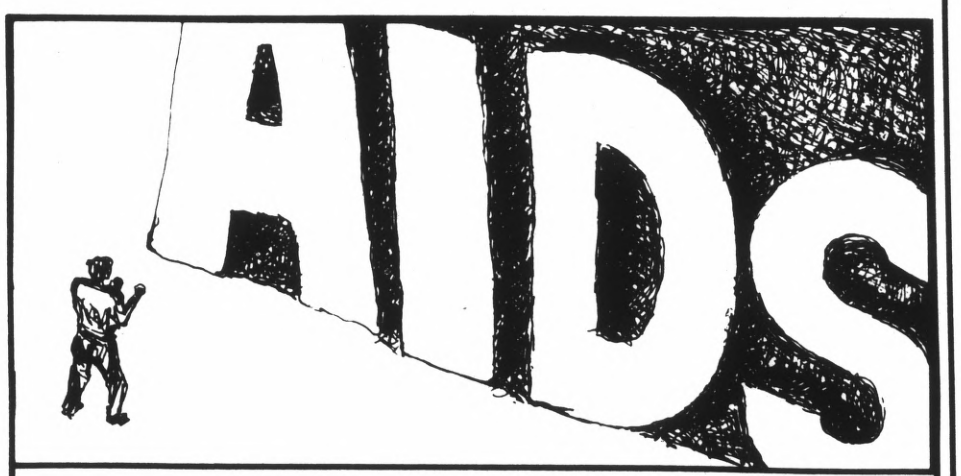

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THE AIDS HEALTH PROJECT

476-6430

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- Support
- Referrals

Funded by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Presentation Theater, 2350 Turk St, SF. Info: 752-7755.

Evolving Shadows, Part II: Redrum by Jon Greene, Eponine Cuervo-Moll, Flavia Happ & Andrew Voight. Plays Thurs-Sun at 8:30 pm, 9/8-9/17, Studio Eremos, 401 Alabama St, SF. Info/res: 621-8875.

Homebase by Donald E Lacy Jr. Tragic comedy addresses the problem of freebasing cocaine. Opens 9/9, runs Thurs-Sun thru 10/2. Western Addition Cultural Ctr, 762 Fulton St, SF. $8 gen'l, 46 stdnts & srs. Info/res: 921-7976.

Shimmer by John O'Keefe. Part autobiographical & part ficiton, play provides an inroad into seeing what is behind the face of reality. Elan Vital & Climate Theatre production. Runs 9/15-10/9. 8 pm Thurs-Sun. Previews 9/14. Climate Theatre, 252 9th St, SF. Info: 626-9196.

Viva! by Andy de la Tour. Hilarious celebration of a Central American revolution. Eureka Theater production. Runs 9/28-10/23. 2730 16th St, SF. Tix info: 558-9811.

Inventory by Jessica Kubzansky. A "serious comedy", produced by Cumulus Theatre Co. Runs thru Sept 10 at Climate Theatre, 252 9th St, SF. Thurs-Sat at 8 pm, $8. Info/res: 626-9196.

Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen. Berkeley Rep Theatre production. Previews 9/16-20, opens 9/21, runs thru 10/29. For tix & time info: 845-4700. 2025 Addison St, Berkeley.

One Fool or How I Learned to Stop Worrying & Love the Dutch by Terry Baum. One-woman play inspired by Baum's two years in Amsterdam. The trials & tribulations of The Fool as she desperately searches for love, (which she unfortunately confuses with good sex) and is forced to face the horrors of Being Alone. Theatre Rhino production. Runs thru 9/4. 8:30 pm Fri & Sun, 7:30 & 9:30 pm Sat. 2926 16th St, SF. Info/res: 861-5079.

Frank Oliver On The Edge: lunatic mixture of theater, magic, music & dance at Life on the Water theatre by this multitalented juggler, unicyclists & comedian. Runs 9/7-10/2; 8 pm Wed-Sun. $8 Wed, $11 Thurs & Sun, $15 Fri & Sat. Ft Mason Ctr Bldg B, SF. Info: 776-8999.

RESOURCE GUIDE

AIDS RESOURCES

ACT UP/SF meets Thurs, 7:30 pm, MCC-SF, 150 Eureka St, SF. Direct action & civil disobedience to end the AIDS epidemic & the injustices around it. Info: 821-9087.

New Friends: a group made up of people with AIDS who help those who have been newly diagnosed. Info: 928-5352.

Benefits Orientation for Persons with AIDS & ARC: SF AIDS Foundation holds 2 wkly orientations for persons with AIDS & ARC on how to access governmental financial assistance programs. Also learn what social services are available in SF. Reservations required, call 864-5855, 9am-6 pm, Mon-Fri.

Women's Support Group: open to any women diagnosed with AIDS. Provides positive environment in which to share difficult personal issues. Info: Shanti Project 777-CARE.

Youth & Children's Groups: ongoing support for those diagnosed with AIDS & children of people with AIDS. Divided by age categories—7-11 & 12-17. Info: Shanti Project 777-CARE.

Drugs & Alcohol/AIDS Support Group: for men with AIDS or ARC, or who test HIV positive & have a alcohol or drug problem Also open to their lovers & friends or anyone in recovery who has concerns around AIDS. 18th St Services, 217 Church St at Market, SF. Free. Info: 861-4898.

Gay Support Group for people with AIDS/ARC/HIV + and alcohol substance abuse. Invididual & group process. Operation Concern's Operation Recovery, 1853 Market St, SF. Info: 626-7000.

BWMT AIDS Task Force deals with people of color, minority & third world issues surrounding AIDS. All welcome. Info: 630 Fillmore #201, SF 94117, 431-8333.

Marin AIDS Support Network: emotional support for persons with AIDS or ARC & their loved ones, preventive education, speakers bureau, telephone info. Emotional support volunteers needed, Training provided. Info: 457-AIDS.

The AIDS Screening Clinic at District Health Ctr #2, 1301 Pine St nr Ellis, SF. Call for appt: 621-4858.

Free Chiropractic Clinic for people w/AIDS. For appt/info: 282-4622, 9 am-3 pm.

SF Kaiser Permanente Med Ctr has AIDS-related groups that focus on gay health. Call 929-5204.

Computerized AIDS Info Network, (CAIN), a 24 hr, nationwide, up-to-date information service based in Cambridge, MA. To subscribe, call (800) 544-4005. To list a service, call (213) 464-7400.

AIDS Health Project offers prevention programs; mental health, substance abuse & antibody counseling; AIDS health professional training program & a guide to AIDS Research. Info: 1855 Folsom St, Ste 506, SF. 476-6430.

Third World People with AIDS/ARC meet Mon 6-8 pm in Oakl. Info: AIDS Project of the Eastbay 420-8181

AIDS Ecumenical Healing Services, held the 1st Mon of every month, spons by AIDS Interfaith Network. Info: 928-HOPE.

SF AIDS Foundation provides various educational (support services, such as literature distribution, food bank, hotline & housing. Volunteers & contributions welcome. 333 Valencia St, 4th fl, SF. Info: 864-4376.

Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network: counseling & in-home care for people with AIDS & ARC in Sonoma County. Also support groups. Info: Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network, POB 892, Guerneville, CA 95446.

The AIDS/ARC Blood Fund for people with AIDS is available by calling the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Demo Club's Blood Fund Coordinator, 863-6761.

Service Thru Touch offers massage for PWAs who are hospitalized, or live in Shanti residences or Coming Home Hospice. Massage referral for PWAs also available, at very low SL fee. Info: 664-6904 Tues, Wed & Fri, 12:30-3:30 pm.

Open Hand delivers hot meals to people with AIDS/ARC. Info: Ruth 771-9808.

The Family Link provides housing for friends & family of people with AIDS who are visiting from outside the Bay Area. Info: 346-0770.

ARIS Project: emotional, practical wkly support groups for people w/AIDS, ARC, HIV pos., & their loved ones. Also volunteer training. Call (408) 370-3272.

San Mateo County Buddies provide support & assistance to people with AIDS & ARC & their friends & family in San Mateo County. For info: AIDS Coordinating Office 573-2588. Volunteers needed, 6-month commitment asked; bi-weekly support groups; intensive training provided.

San Mateo County AIDS/ARC Counseling Service spons by Dept of Health Services. Trained & experienced facilitators. Open & frank discussions in a safe atmosphere. Info: Gloria Greenberg or Nancy Jordan 363-4111. For info on other county services or programs: Ed Hilton, AIDS Program Coordinator 573-2588.

Antibody Positive Drop-In Support Group spons by UCSF AIDS Health Project & Operation Concern. Thursdays, 6-8 pm. Focus on assisting individuals in exploring concerns around positive test results, supporting development of coping skills. Operation Concern, 1853 Market at Guerrero, SF. Info: 476-6430.

New HIV Positive In-Depth Psychotherapy Group for gay & bisexual men who do not have symptoms of AIDS or ARC. Open your heart to yourself & others, make life more what you wish it to be. Learn to give & receive support, live more in accordance with your own values & priorities, build self-esteem, deal with emotional confusion. Tues 7:30-9:30 pm. Limited to 8 members. Info: Dave Cooperberg, MA 431-3220.

Spiritual Support Groups for people who are HIV positive. Focus on the spiritual issues confronting us. Open to all persons. Spons by the United Methodist AIDS Project. Mon 7-9 pm, Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St, SF, 647-6051. Wed 7-9 pm, Calvary United Methodist Church, 1400 Judah St, SF, 566-3704.

Ctr for Attitudinal Healing, 19 Main St, Tiburon. Supplements traditional health care by providing an environment in which children & adults with life-threatening illness can participate in their own attitudinal healing. Focus groups for adults with AIDS/ARC meet 4-6 pm Thurs, 7-9 pm Fri. Worried Well group meets 7-9 pm Thurs eves. Support group for spouses, significant others & friends of those facing a life-threatening illness meets 7:30-9:30 pm on Tues. Info: 435-5022.

PAWS (Pets Are A Wonderful Support) provides direct services so people with AIDS/ARC can keep their pets. Also provides financial aid for pet food & veterinary bills, and places pets in foster & permanent homes as needed. Info: 824-4040.

The Godfather Service Fund is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that provides care packages (toiletry, bathrobes, slippers & teddy bear) to people with AIDS & ARC at 8 SF hospitals. Spons by the SF Tavern Guild Foundation. To volunteer or for more info call 771-6133 or write PO Box 11309, SF 94101-1309.

Free Healing Mtgs: conducted by spiritual counselor & teacher Julian Baird. Wed 7:30-9:30 pm. Info: 563-2577.

The Rest Stop Support Center is a place for and by people with AIDS/ARC/HIV+; and their friends. Drop-in for some coffee & conversation. Ctr sponsors attitudinal healing support groups & activities. Mon: Battle Fatigue Support Group—healing for AIDS caregivers. 5-7 pm, free. Wed: Living Well with AIDS/ARC. Attitudinal healing mtg, 4-6 pm, free. 134 Church St, SF. Info: 621-REST.

Shanti Project offers emotional, practical & residential support to people with AIDS, their friends, families & loved ones. 525 Howard St. SF. PWA Support Groups: daytime—Tues, Thurs. Fri eves—Tues, Wed, Thurs. Friends. Family & Lovers Support Group: Wed & Thurs eves; Coping with Loss & Grief Support Group—Thurs eve. For info/location, or to volunteer as an emotional or practical support counselor (training provided) call 777-CARE.

Ellipse-Peninsula AIDS Services offers 1-1 & group emotional support for persons with IDS & ARC, their families & significant others. Also info/referrals, case management/coordination & attendant care services. Extensive volunteer activities available. Info: 366-AIDS.

AIDS Interfaith Network offers support & guidance to people with AIDS, their families and loved ones thru hospital ministry, literature distribution, spiritual support, healing teams and prayer. 2261 Market St #502, SF 94114-1693. Info: 928-HOPE.

AIDS Interfaith Support Committee of Sonoma County: persons of any faith tradition welcome (707) 762-0107.

AIDS Interfaith Network of the Eastbay: monthly healing services. 2nd Sun, 3 pm, Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 3755 13th St at Park, Oakl. Info: 523-5011, 482-3937.

AIDS Interfaith of Marin: 457-1129.

The Center: a spiritual resource for persons with AIDS/ARC & their caregivers. Offers individual pastoral counseling, spiritual direction, prayer groups, retreats, spiritual support groups, massage, friendly conversation, monthly calendar of events. Spons by the Missionary Brothers of Charity 3421 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland 94609. Info: 655-3435.

Contra Costa County AIDS Interfaith Network. Every Thurs, 7:30 pm. Diablo Valley MCC, 2253 Concord Blvd, Concord. Info: 827-2960.

Kairos House, interfaith spiritual resource ctr for caregivers & people affected by the AIDS crisis. Individual & small group support, spiritual guidance, meditation, massage, retreats, etc. Yard & quiet space for prayer. 114 Douglas St, SF, 94114. Father John McGrann, director. Info: 861-0877.

SF AIDS Fund provides emergency financial assistance to people with AIDS. 1547 California St, SF. Info/contributions: 441-6407.

SF AIDS Alternative Healing Project offers: comprehensive program of individual treatment for people with AID/ARC or who are HIV positive. Also Chinese herbal treatment program, telephone resource line, referrals to health practitioners, alternative healing support groups, classes & more. Info: 558-9292.

Contra Costa AIDS Info: 646-2525.

People with AIDS/ARC Support Group meets in Berkeley. Thurs 2-4 pm. Spons by AIDS Project of the Eastbay. Info: 420-8181.

Parents Support Group: for parents of children living with AIDS/ARC. Open to parents with children of any age, facilitated by two parents of a person with AIDS. Issues that arise for parents can be difficult to deal with alone, come talk to other parents who've been there. 6-8 pm in Oakl. Spons by AIDS Project of the East Bay. Info: 420-8181.

Lovers, Friends, & Family of People with AIDS/ARC Group meets in Berkeley. Mon 6-8 pm. Info: AIDS Project of the East Bay 420-8181.

Project Inform: for info on experimental drug treatment call the hotline: 558-9051 (local), (800) 334-7422 (statewide), (800) 822-7422 out of state. Office: 558-8669. Archives open to the public by appt.

Couples Group for people with AIDS & their partners. Deal with improving communication, problem-solving & other relationship issues. 6 wk groups start every other month. For info call AIDS Health Project 626-6637.

Couples Support Group spons by Shanti Project. A group for couples where one or more partners has AIDS. Meets Wed nights. Info: 777-CARE.

Bereaved Men whose lovers have died of AIDS: 6-wk support/healing group. Release feelings, receive comfort, find strength. Facilitated by Stuart Horance, PhD, Hospice psychologist; & Tom

Grothe, RN. Low fee. Info: 731-4931.
AIDS Legal Referral Panel: BALIF/NEFIR offers free simple wills & powers of attorney for people with AIDS or ARC. Other AIDS related legal matters handled on a case by case basis. Info: Clint Hockenberry 864-8186.
AIDS/ARC Switchboard: staffed by men & women with AIDS & ARC. Please call if you're in need of advice, looking for info, confused & anxious, depressed. We want to help. Staffed Mon-Sat 1-4 pm, Thurs 1-6 pm. At other times leave message. Info: 861-7309.
HIV Concerns in the East Bay: drop-in groups spons by Pacific Ctr's AIDS Project of the East Bay. However, if you've tested positive for antibody or the virus directly, there's a group to support you: gay & bisexual men's groups, heterosexual women & men's group, heterosexual couples group, gay couples group, significant others group. All groups professionally facilitated. No fees, donations requested, no one turned away for lack of funds. Info: 420-8181.
Healing Mass: healing prayers offered for people with AIDS/ARC & others. Spons by Integrity, a community of lesbian & gay Episcopalians & friends. Gay & lesbian affirming worship at St John's 1661 15th St, SF. Sun, 5:30 pm. Info: David Bentley 431-5859.
Garden Sullivan AIDS/ARC Project: provides environmental support (ice cream socials, posters, clocks, calendars, plants, etc) to people on the AIDS/ARC ward at SF's Garden Sullivan Hospital. Spons by Integrity (see above).
Fairmont Hospital in San Leandro offers AIDS specialty & screening clinic, outpatient day therapies unit, Retrovir (AZT) clinic, alternate test site for antibody testing, AIDS-dedicated inpatient ward & an AIDS-sensitive staff. Info: 667-3219, 9:30 am-4 pm, Mon-Fri. 15400 Foothill Blvd. San Leandro 94578-1091.
AIDS/ARC Group at UCSF's Moffit Hospital: for persons recently diagnosed with AIDS or ARC who are presently in hospital for treatment of related illnesses, or under outpatient care at UCSF. Informal & confidential gathering to discuss problems, issues. Tues eves, 8-9 pm. Info: Richard Bornstein 929-7865, daytime hours only, do NOT call after 9:30 pm.
Transforming AIDS Project (TAP) is a holistic program designed for peope with an AIDS diagnosis. Program provides thorough medical evaluation, acupuncture, chiropractic, nutritional & detox therapies, massage, counseling, support group, meditation & visualization guidance. Info: Leon Lashner, Susan Brennan, Nancy Issenman 268-8557 or Donald Arquilla 863-9507.
AIDS Mastery Workshops: transformative & healing weekend. Moves you past feeling like a victim of circumstances by reclaiming your innate power, self-love & aliveness. No PWA or PWARC turned away for lack of funds. Info: 553-2511.
Shanti Project Residences: Shanti provides low-cost, longterm housing to people with AIDS. Each of 12 residence houses are home to 3-6 people. Private bedrooms, all other living spaces shared. Resident Advocates assist with home health care, transportation, medical intervention of social services. Residents pay ¼ of their monthly income as rent. For info on renting housing or to make a donation: Shanti Residence Care rogram 777-CARE.
JFCS AIDS Project: Jewish Family & Childrens' Service offers services to Jewish people with AIDS & ARC, their loved ones & families: crisis intervention, ongoing counseling & support, emergency financial assistance, referrals. Project especially reaches out to out-of-town family members who may lack a local support system. Also speakers' bureau on AIDS prevention. Coordinator: Andy Rose 567-8860, 1600 Scott St, SF 94115.
Emergency Health Fund spons by Catholic Charities: provides funds for PWAS/PWARC with incomes of less than $700/month, to help in emergency situations or to cover medical costs not covered by insurance or govt programs. Info: 864-7400, ask for the AIDS/ARC Program.
Asian AIDS Project: education, prevention, referal & community organizing. 1596 Post St, SF. Info: Douglas Yaranon, Peng Ngin 929-1304, 929-1305.
SF AIDS Theatregroup: a performance workshop for persons with AIDS or ARC. No experience required. No fees. Info: 282-3961.
AIDS Information BBS: (415) 626-1246 24 hours. 300/1200 baud. Sysop Ben Gardiner. Free, all welcome. Statistics from Atlanta & SF displayed, updated regularly. Sample Q & A about AIDS, based on clinic & phone exchange experience. Mail send/receive on AIDS only. Library of hard-to-find & out-of-print matter here for downloading from screen. Uploads by appt on another line. Voice phone: 626-1245. Calls to this BBS never disturb anyone.
Healing Group in the Castro: led by Jason Serinus & Fred MacKissic. Focus on alignment of mind, body & spirit. Utilizes deep relaxation, meditation, breathwork, group massage, visualization, affirmations, guided chakra meditation & laying on of hands. Wed eves. Doors open at 6:45 pm, mtg begins at 7 pm, sharp. Ctr for Self Love, Growth & Healing, 552 Castro St, Ste B, (bet 18th & 19th), SF. Info: Jason 652-2180. Fred 344-8505.
Macrobiotic Cooking Classes in the Castro for people concerned about AIDS, ARC, candida & other health problems. Thurs, 6:30 pm. Taught by Gary Alinder, professional natural foods cook. Emphasis on tasty but easy-to-prepare meals. Info: 552-5449.
Master Your Mind: support group for PWAs & the worried well. Focus on meditation & visualization techniques, empowerment & health. Meets 1st & 3rd Tues every month, noon-2 pm, 333 Valencia St, SF, 4th floor. Not affiliated with the SF AIDS Fdn. Info: Mary Richards 945-0941.
HIV Negative Support Groups: testing negative is great, but can present problems of its own. Some become so fearful that they give up all sex; others are others are overwhelmed by the pain of watching their friends & lovers die. Get support to deal with "survivor guilt" and others issues surrounding testing negative—write to Groups, PO Box 642, Sausalito 94966. Eastbay, SF & Marin groups available, leave name, address & phone.
HIV + Social Group meets every 3rd Sat of the month. Diamond Heights condo, SF. 7-10 pm. Info: 824-3370.

► ARCHIVES

SF Lesbian Gay Historical Society collects, preserves & disseminates materials related to the Bay Area gay & lesbian experience. Also sponsors public programs & wkshops on lesbian/gay history. Join in this important work—call 441-1128\ or write, SFBAGLHS, POB 42126, SF 94142.
Lesbian & Gay Books & Magazines available at the Harvey Milk Library, 3555 16th St, SF. 3-wk loan. Hrs. Mon, Thurs, Fri 1-6 pm; Tues 10 am-6 pm; Wed 1-9 pm. Info: 626-1132.
Documentation of AIDS Issues & Research maintains an archive open to the public by appt, call 928-0292 for info, also see AIDS Resources.

► FUN & GAMES

Play Bingo! And help raise funds for Coming Home Hospice. Every Thurs at Most Holy Redeemer Church Basement, 100 Diamond, bet 18th & 19th, SF. Doors open 6 pm, games start at 7. $3000 in cash prizes per night. Minimum buy-in: $10. Pull tabs, concession stand, door prizes & raffle. Spons by Most Holy Redeemer Neighborhood Support Group. Come have fun & help others.
SF Walking Tours: explore the waterfront by full moon, see the hidden gardens & stairways of Russian Hill, the murals of the Mission & embassies of Pacific Heights—free tours of SF neighborhoods by trained City Guides. For info or to arrange special group tours: 558-3981 Tues-Thurs 10 am-3 pm. Spons by Friends of the SF Public Library.
SF Friends of the Urban Forest Walking Tours: free tours thru 9 SF neighborhoods, designed to bring out relationship between the natural, historical & cultural of an area & its history, land development, architectural features, cultural influences & special events. Info: 543-5000. 512 2nd St, 4th fl, SF.
Men's Brunch & Games for Older Gay Men (60+) & their friends—see Seniors.
Men's Outings for Older Gay Men (60+) & friends—see Seniors.
Lesbian Games Parties! Play Pictionary, charades, Scrabble, Twister, poker, Risk—card games, board games, etc. For info/location: Zeke 550-2650.

► HOBBIES

Needlecraft & Fiber Arts for Lesbians: group for lesbians who enjoy knitting, needlepoint, quilting, spinning, embroidery, counted cross stitch, crocheting, etc. Meet 1st & 3rd Thurs each month, exchange ideas, techniques, encouragement & friendship. Also exhibit outings, demos, various speakers. Info: Marie 285-7818.
Knit Together: textile interest group for gay men interested in spinning, weaving, knitting, quilting & other fiber arts. Share techniques, teach & meet others. Info: Bruce 346-2982.
Gourmet Guppies: group of gay men & urban professionals interested in extraordinary food & fine wine. Dinners organized at Bay Area's finest restaurants. For info write PO Box 744, SF 94101.
Like to Cook? Join this nonprofit cooking group, an easygoing group of people interested in food. Potlucks, prepard meals, restaurant visits, etc. Comfortable, casual setting. Group meets 3rd Sat of each month, 6-9 pm. Info: Joe 864-2365.
GMUG the Gay Macintosh Users Group, meets on 3rd Wed of each month at Adwork, 853 Folsom St, SF. 7:30 pm. Lesbian & gay Macintosh users are welcome to attend.
Women's Reading Group: small, informal group of women who meet bimonthly to discuss books by women authors. Info: Dorit 285-6857, Dano 641-5751.
Women's Book Club: monthly mtg to discuss books by & about women. Info: Julie 861-1317, Rapunzel 346-8284.
Hortophiles: a group for lesbians & gay men who enjoy growing plants. For info write PO Box 31, Palo Alto, 94301 or call Geoff 325-7212 or Henrietta 793-6627.
Gay Ham Group: Lambda Radio Amateur Club, Bay Area chapter, meets 8 pm, 2nd Thurs of each month. Hams & those interested in learning about the hobby & group call Kit 863-1196 or write Lambda Radio Club, PO Box 14073, SF 94114.
Lesbians at the Movies: an almost-monthly event for women over 30. Come watch a film, meet someone new, have some fun. Bring your favorite snack to share. Mtgs in SF & Eastbay. Info/directions: 420-1622.

► HEALTH

Women's Clinic at District Health Ctr#1 provides medical screening for cancer of the breast, thyroid & cervix, and STDs. Confidential. SL. 3850 17th St, SF. Hrs: Tues 8-10 pm, Thurs noon-2:30 pm, 4-6 pm. Info: 558-3905.
PAP Tests at City Clinic: also diagnosis, treatment & counseling, for vaginitis conditions, enteric diseases. Screening & referral for AIDS. Bilingual (Spanish) staff available. Confidential, low cost services. Hrs: Mon & Thurs 9:30 am-6 pm; Tues, Wed & Fri 8 am-4 pm. 356 7th St, SF. Mon-Fri. Info: 864-8100.
Quan Yin Acupuncture Ctr: experienced, licensed staff at Quan Yin Acupuncture & Herb Ctr offer acupuncture, homeopathy, Shiatsu massage, dietary counseling, Chinese & Western herbs. Sliding scale. Open 9 am-7 pm Mon-Fri, 9:30-1:30 on Sat. 513 Valencia St at 16th, SF. Info: 861-1101.
Min An "People's Well-Being" Health Ctr offers lesbian/gay sensitive primary care to the community. Western medicine: general medicine, gynecology & women's health, "2nd opinions", nutrition & exercise counseling, relaxation & meditation techniques. Traditional Chinese medicine: acupuncture & herbal medicine. Fresh herbal pharmacy. Dentistry: general, preventitive & aesthetic. Psychotherapy: adult, couples & family. SL, Ins & MediCal accepted. Info: 771-4040. 1144-A Pacific Ave nr Taylor, SF.
Fertility Awareness Classes for Women: offered at District Health Ctr #5, 1351 24th Ave, SF. Learn how to observe & interpret your body's changes during the menstrual cycle. Use info to achieve or prevent pregnancy. Info: 558-2544. Partners welcome to attend class.
Lyon-Martin Women's Health Sensitive primary health care for women by women, with emphasis on the health care needs of lesbians. Services include: gen'l medical care, gynecology, acupuncture, lesbian parenting, AIDS counseling & safe sex info (safe sex kits for women available). WA. SL. 2480 Mission nr 21st St, SF. Info/appt: 641-0220.
Lesbian Clinic of the Berkeley Women's Health Collective provides health care by & for lesbians. Mon 7-9 pm. Call for appt: 843-6194.
Women's Occupational Stress Resource Ctr: stress groups for women workers, resource library, referral service, workshops & lectures. 264 Valencia St, SF. Info: Barbara Young 864-2364.
Women's Cancer Resource Ctr: information & resource ctr for Bay Area women with cancer, their friends, families & practitioners. Provides drop-in support group for women with cancer (meets 1st & 3rd Mon of each month). Info: 653-9028 or write POB 11235, Oakl, 94611.
UC Infectious Disease and Tropical Medicine Clinic: specialized care for gay patients with sexually transmitted intestinal parasitic diseases. 5th floor, Ambulatory Care Clinic, 400 Parnassus, SF. Call 666-5787 for appt.
The Men's Clinic: VD testing, treatment, counseling & referral by & for gay men. Gay Men's Health Collective, Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave, Berk; WA. Confidential. Info: 644-0425.
SF Macrobiotic Network sponsors community dinners Tues & Fri, 6:30 pm; followed by talk or discussion on alternative health & spirituality. Zen Guest House, 273 Page St, SF. Info/res: 431-2122. $8 or SL fee.
Life Is Care Natural Care Ctr, 150 Golden Gate Rd #104, Sausalito. 3 areas of service: women's health care, chiropractic care, and personal growth.

Photo by Gypsy P. Ray

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Planetree Health Resource Ctr: non-profit ctr provides a place to go when you need more info about health or medical concerns. Get up-to-date medical info to assist you in making informed choices about your health. Ctr maintains extensive consumer health library, current medical lit clippings & health bookstore. Also support groups, health information service by mail, and more. 2040 Webster St, SF. Info: 923-3680.
Free consultations: in biofeedback stress reduction and also rolfing body assessment/reading. Call Shimon Attie, MFCC, certified rolfer for info/appt, 922-3478.

► HOTLINES AND REFERRALS

Solano County Gay Info Line Referrals & info on local & out-of-county happenings for men & women. (707) 448-1010.
SF Sex Information Switchboard: Mon-Fri, 3-9 pm. Info and referrals on all aspects of sexuality, for all ages & lifestyles. 621-7300.
Battered Lesbian 24-hr hot-line, individual counseling, support grps & legal advocacy clinics. Info: Liz at WOMAN Inc. 864-4722.
Gay Domestic Violence: info, peer counseling for gay & bisexual men who batter. Referrals for victims of battering. Spons by MOVE (Men Overcoming Violence). Info: 626-MOVE.
Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project provides direct services for male victims of domestic violence. 24-hr report hotline. Spons by CUAV. Call 864-7233 for help.
Gay Area Youth Switchboard: Info, referral, peer counseling. Info: 386-GAYS or POB 846, SF 94101.
Gay Youth Community Coalition publishes "We Are Here," guide listing of No. Calif resources for young lesbians & gays (13-25). For copy, send first class, stamped, self-addressed business size envelope, enclose statement saying that your age is 25 or under, sign name at bottom. Or enclose $2 check to Gay Youth Community Coalition, POB 846, SF 94101.
The Lesbian/Gay Switchboard trained volunteers at Pacfic Ctr listen to your concerns. Also Bay Area & nationwide info—from sports, entertainment, rap groups, counseling, AIDS info. Call 841-6224.
AIDS Alternative Healing Project Hotline. Info/referrals on alternative healing approaches, practitioners: see AIDS Resources.
Poison Control Central: 24 hr service. Over-the-phone help w/ poison emergencies. Call 476-6600.
SF Drug Line: support, info, referrals on drug problems/treatment. Call 752-3400.
Discriminated Against because of your sexual orientation? Contact SF Human Rights Commission, Lesbian/Gay Liaison Unit. There are local laws to protect you. Info: Eileen Gillis 558-4901.
Gay Legal Referral Services for all legal problems. ½ hour consultation, $20. Some low-fee & no-fee referrals available. Info: 621-3900.
Southbay Gay Hotline: info, referrals, peer counseling. (408)293-4525, (408) 293-AGAY
Emergency Food Box Program provides 3-day supply of nutritionally balanced food to those in emergency situations. Info: 621-7575.
Jewish Community Info & Referral (JCI&R): SF phone-in service answers questions on all aspects of Jewish life, Free. 9:30 am-4:30 pm; 777-4545.
Renters: Learn Your Rights! Old St. Mary's Housing Committee offers special clinics: gen'l rights counseling Mon 6:30-8:30 pm in the Haight, 1833 Page, SF. Downtown (660 California St) clinic specializes in evictions, Rent Board procedures & leases; Thurs 5:30-8:30 pm. Info/appt: 398-0724.
Options Homeshare: lonely? rent too high, or needs services in exchange for housing? Options Homeshare counselors fulfill housing needs by matching seniors with seniors or younger persons with seniors. Women & men welcome. Spons by Options for Women Over 40. Info: 552-4549.
Senior Information Line: events & services available to seniors in SF on an information, referral & health promotion line located at SF's Dept. of Public Health. Anyone wishing to add an event should call 626-1033. The line number is 552-6016.
Neighbors Driving You Crazy? Community Boards can help—CB is a free, fast & effective dispute resolution service for SF residents with problems: renter/owner disputes, noise, pets, money disputes, family or housemate problems, etc. Call 239-6100 & get relief.
Call GLOE (Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elders) for info on services for lesbian & gay elders: friendly visitors, support/rap groups, social events, etc. Spons by Operation Concern, funded by SF Comm on the Aging. Info: 626-7000 v/tty.
Peninsula Gay Hotline: info, referrals, peer counseling & resource guide available. Info: 979-8864.
SF Women Against Rape provides individual & group counseling for rape survivors. SFWAR also does advocacy & educational work & holds house meetings where groups of women discuss concerns & fears, & ways to prevent rape. For info: 647-RAPE. 3543 18th St, SF 94110.
California Runaway Hotline provides the following services to young people who have run away from home, & to their parents: crisis intervention counseling, referrals to resource agencies & a neutral message center. For help call 800-843-5200.
Looking for a Job? 16-24? Call Job Track: 557-8651.
Spanish/English Employment Services for midlife & older women. Tues & Thurs 10 am-5 pm. Options for Women Over 40, 3543 18th St, SF. Info: 431-6405.
Arthouse Phone Line: lists available live/work studio space in SF & the Bay Area. Joint project of Calif Lawyers for the Arts & SF Arts Commission. For current listings: 431-6113. To register or list available space: 431-0556.

► INCEST AND BATTERY

Incest Survivor Groups: both mixed women's groups & those for lesbians in recovery from drugs or alcohol. Phase 1 & 2 groups. Iris Project, 264 Valencia, SF. Info: Angie or Deborah 864-2364.
Incest Survivors Anonymous: We are no longer alone, we have each other. Incest Survivors Anonymous is a 12-step program that enables incest survivors to break out of the victim role & the nightmare of terror, guilt & confusion. Closed mtg for survivors & pro-survivors. Original perpetrators of incest or rape or victims who later became initiators do not attend ISA mtgs. Initiation is determined by intent. Mtgs for women & men: Sun 7-8:30 pm; Tues & Thurs 7:30-9 pm. For women: Sat, 11 am-12:30 pm. Wed 7:30-9 pm at the Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St, SF—(Wed only)—mtg focus on incest and/or family violence. Info: 359-2070 anytime.
Incest Survivor? Send self-addressed stamped envelope for list of survivor-written literature. Send to: Survivors of Incest, Anonymous, Box 21817, Baltimore, MD 21222.
Now What? A problem-solving group for women survivors of child sexual abuse. "I've been healing for awhile. What about sex? Intimacy? Work? Parenting? Dealing with my family?" Develop practical strategies for change. Facilitated by Laura Davis, co-author of *Courage to Heal*. Info: 285-8724.
Surviving the Healing Process: 2-day wkend wkshops for women survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Healing is hard work & we need to pace ourselves—get practical tools for building your support system, assessing where you are, taking care of yourself, celebrating victories. SF location. Led by Laura Davis. $75-100 SL. Info/res: 285-8724.
Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse: group for women dealing with healing, anger, grief, sexuality, trust & intimacy issues. Info: Jan Chess, MFCC 474-9985.
I Never Told Anyone: wkend wkshops for women survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Led by Ellen Bass, author of *Courage To Heal and Amy Pine, LMFCC. Santa Cruz area. Some insurance accepted. Info: (408) 423-2609.*
Child Sexual Abuse Therapy Group for latency-aged female victims. 8-wk commitment. SF location. Info: Jan Chess, MFCC 474-9985.
Group for lesbian survivors of incest & other sexual abuse as children. 12 wks/$20 session. Eves, Eastbay location. Info: Heather Taylor, MFCC 843-4854.
Gay & Bisexual Men Who Batter: Are you feeling ashamed, afraid or angry about having been violent with the man you love the most? MOVE (Men Overcoming Violence) provides assistance & support for change in a safe, confidential place. Info: 626-MOVE.
Counseling for Battered Gay Men: Is the hand that holds you in public the hand that strikes you in private? CUAV (Community United Against Violence) offers free individual counseling & support groups for you. Call 864-3112, or 864-7233 (24-hr hotline). Call us, we can help.
Lesbians Who Have Been Battered: group for lesbians who are in or hve left a battering relationship. Thurs eves, Oakl location. Led by Audrey Martin, MFCC. Info: 428-1505.
Support Group for Lesbians who are or have been in a battering relationship; SL. Info: Women Inc.: 864-4722.
Lesbians of Color Against Abuse (LOCAA): support group for lesbians of color who have been or are now victims of abusive relationships with other lesbians. Info: Rhonda 621-8684.
Battered Lesbian Drop-In Group: spons by Sonoma County YWCA Women's Emergency Shelter Program. Info: (707) 546-1234. Call—you are not the only one.
Battered Lesbians Services offered by Marin Abused Women's Services. Call 924-6616 ask for Holly or Odilia.
Battered Lesbian 24-hr hot-line, individual counseling, support grps & legal advocacy clinics. Info: Liz at WOMAN Inc. 864-4722.
Women's Jobs Program provides counseling & support for battered and formerly-battered women. Includes resume-writing & interview skills. Free. Spons by Rosalie House of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Info: Yvette 255-0166.

► ONGOING CLASSES

Yoga Class: release body tension, develop awareness & trust thru practicing the yoga postures. Iyengar style. Tues beg level, 6-7:30 pm, Sat women's adv. beg 8:15-9:45 am. 3252A 19th St, SF. $35/5 classes, $8 drop-in. Info: Velleda 585-1592.
Iyengar Yoga Class with Rob Villacari. Emphasizes alignment & breathing. All levels welcome. $24/4 classes, $7 drop-in. Sliding scale. Mondays, 6:30-8 pm, 455-A Valencia St, SF. Info: 864-1141.
Yoga for Women: Postures, breathing, meditation. Tues, 6:30-8 pm, $35/6 classes, $7 drop-in. Berkeley location. Info: Ali Hammer 654-8765.
Orals Preparation for LCSW, MFCC: individual sessions. Experienced with both exams. Info: Margie Cohen, LCSW 524-0738.
Printing—Training & Job Placement: 12 wk course covers offset press operation & basic graphic arts. Info: Tyler Kirk or Matt Morano 285-3500, 648-5866 ext 34. Spons by Friends Outside.
Healing The Earth Bodywork Training: 150-hr state-approved certificate program focused for gay men & lesbians. Body Electric School of Massage & Rebirthing, 6527-A Telegraph, Oakl. Info: Joseph Kramer 653-1594.
Music Play Group for Adults: emphasis on moving to new levels of vitality & creative expression thru sound & song, instruments, movement improv, writing, visualization & more. Info: Lynne Uretsky 465-9306.
Voice Release Wkshop for Women: breathwork, sounding, singing, improv, ritual. Emphasis on emotions/voice/body connections. Info: Yolande 654-5512.
Women's Rounds Circle meets Wed eves in Berkeley to sing Elizabethan, Spiritual, Folk & African rounds & canons. Rhythmically & harmonically exciting songs taught by Yolande Adams. 6 wks/$36-60 SL. Info: 654-5512.
Finding the Groove: group & individual classes in drums, congas, improv, composition, classical & jazz. Gentle guidance approach. Info: Joyce 843-8835.
Tayu Study Group: meets every Tues, 8 pm, Sebastopol. Spons by Tayu Fellowship—A Fourth Way Spiritual School. Drop-in class intro class includes Fourth Way meditation, readings & discussions. Info/directions: Tayu Order, Box 11554, Santa Rosa, CA 95406. (707) 829-9579.
Tarot Classes: new & traditional interpretations. Smith-Waite deck. Feminist, humanist, transpersonal approach. Beginners/intermediate. 15 yrs experience. Taught by Suzanne Judith. Info: 658-7797.
Autobiography Classes for Women: led by Wendy Maryott-Wilhelms. Use photos, dreams, scrapbooks, music, & writing exercises to inspire writing about your own life. 10-wk classes. Info/res: 654-8540.
Ballroom & Latin Dance Class for lesbians & gay men. Wed: beginners 8-9 pm; intermediate 9-10 pm; in Studio 204, 3435 Army St at Valencia (Old Sears Bldg), SF. Learn to lead or follow in cha cha, waltz, rumba, swing, merengue, fox trot, tango & more. Drop-in, $5/class. Info: 995-4962.
Study Group in Feminist Psychology: sensitive to women's experience & ethnic, racial differences. Learn from each other. Info: Mab Maher, PhD 647-2475.
Interested in Discussing feminist theory & literature with other lesbians? Call Ann 665-6746 (messages) or 548-4514 for info. Bimonthly meetings.
Group for Women: connect, empower, dis-cover how women are; learn to be courageous, powerful women. Mon, 7-9 pm. Info/directions: Marcie 221-1686 eves.
Women's Aikido School of SF: learn beautiful nonviolent martial art, develop & harmonize mind, body, emotions, spirit. All levels welcome, beginners encouraged. Tues, Wed, Thurs & Sun classes. 670 South Van Ness (at 18th). SF. Info: 285-2388.
Soko Joshi Women's Judo Club: an

interesting aspect of Japanese culture involving the arts of throwing, grappling & self-defense. Tues & Thurs; beginners, advanced & intermediate. $30/mo. Location: corner of 26th St & Castro. Info: 826-0566.

Rhythm & Motion Aerobic Dance/Exercise Classe: warm-up stretches, aerobic choreography, floorwork, careful guidance & explanation of work. Info: 621-0643.

Beth Abrams Dance Studio offers special workshops in jazz dance, beginning jazz ballet, jazz for kids (ages 10-16) & stretchaerobics. All classes are fun, vigorous, & taught in a supportive, non-competitive, non-homophobic atmosphere. Info: 282-6177.

Movement Underground offers aerobics (beg, intermed, adv), stretch & tone, Afro-Haitian, modern jazz, modern ballet, ballet, and modern technique classes. For kids: preschool dance, beginning ballet, children's jazz. Studio includes childcare area, & spacious sprung floor. Rehearsal space available. Info: 552-7149.

Quan Yin Healing Arts Ctr: classes & community workshops on various aspects of healing, from acupuncture to microbiotics to crystals. Info/schedule: Gemma 861-1101. 513 Valencia St, SF.

Gay Men's Sketch Class meets every Tues, 7-10 pm; 1229 Folsom St bet 8th & 9th, SF. Classical nude modeling with a variety of models. Open to gay men of any skill level, from interested novice to skilled fine artist. Bring your own materials, comfortable clothes. Tobacco-free environment. Models with something special to offer always welcome. For info call Mark 621-6294. $10 donation, no one turned away for lack of funds.

Sunday Afternoon Sketch Group: informal drawing class meets Sun 1-4 pm. 898 Folsom St at 5th, SF. Male model provided. Suggested donation: $6. Open to all, no reservations necessary. Info: 421-0316.

Women/Minority Men: bi-weekly orientation class for getting into the trades & blue-collar work. Earn good money as plumbers, machine operators, electricians. Tues 3-5 pm, free. Info: Women in Apprenticeship 864-3255 or Sara Tuttle 282-3100.

Interested in discussing feminist theory & literature with other lesbians? Then this group's for you! Bimonthly mtgs—call Ann 665-6746 (messages); or 548-4514.

Writing & Performing Your Own Work: 6 wk wkshops with Claire Blotter in SF's Mission District. 7:30-10:30 pm, $95. Info/res: 868-0589.

Lavendar ASL Group: get together with other lesbians, gays & bisexuals to practice ASL and fingerspelling. All levels of proficiency welcome. Info: 824-0213 eves.

Sign Language Class taught by a deaf lesbian. Thurs 7:30-9 pm, $3-5 SL. Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St, SF. Info: 647-3458.

T'ai Chi Ch'uan group for people of color who practice T'ai Chi (yang form). All levels of proficiency welcome. Info: 824-0213 eves.

► PARENTING

Bay Area Gay Fathers, a support group for gay men who share the rich blessing of also being parents. Meets 1st Sun every month, 5-7 pm. New members welcome. Info: 841-0306.

Gay Fathers-North Bay: c/o Neil or John (707) 887-9538 or write POB 686, Forrestville, CA 95436.

Gay/Lesbian Parenting Group, a group for lesbians and gay men having (or interested in having) children in their lives. Info: Bill 827-2455.

Lesbians Parenting Adolescents (young teens, pre-teens) support group meets 1st & 3rd Sat of each month, 3-5 pm. Self-run group. Info: 821-4332.

Lesbian Mothers of Teenage & Adult Children group: call 626-7109 for info.

Lesbian Moms of Young Children/Babies: Interested in networking in the Eastbay. Come to potluck/brunch—call 540-7171 for details.

Lesbian Mothers of Babies: interested in getting together for mutual support in SF? Come to a potluck/lunch—call 864-4529 for details.

Lesbian Couples with Children: Oakland group for partners seeking support/problem-solving skills regarding having a child, or children in your relationship. Facilitated by lic. therapist. Info: Scotti 839-5354.

Lesbian/Bisexual Mothers support/therapy group: spons by Pacific Ctr. Sat, noon-2:30 pm. All women & their lovers/friends welcome. CC provided. info: Gabriela Castello-Kramer 841-8242.

Info on Childbirth Classes for lesbians: leave message for Anne Arkin, CNM at 653-2849.

Childbirth Education by a lesbian mom for lesbians: SF location, small classes or private consultation. Info on hospital & home births. Info: Suellen Sleamaker, RN, MHS. 826-4489.

Adoption Support Groups for adult adoptees, birth parents & adoptive parents. Info: Post-Adoption Ctr for Education & Research 935-6622.

Couples Planning to Parent: join a discussion group with other lesbian couples who are planning to get pregnant soon. For info call 653-3770.

Lesbian & Gay Parenting Project spons by Lyon Martin Clinic & the Lesbian Rights Project, spons the following groups: lesbians considering parenthood, childbirth classes, new moms groups, mothers with teenagers & other wkshops. Info: 525-7312.

► People of Color

Third World Gay Men's Rap Group drop-in Wednesdays, 6-8 pm, Pacific Center, Berkeley. Info: 841-6224.

Black & White Men Together gathering every Thurs, 1350 Waller St nr Masonic, SF. Rap 7:30-10pm. For info/mtg topic: 931-BWMT. Also see AIDS Resources for AIDS discussion group.

Lesbians of Color/Third World Lesbian Support Group meets Thursdays, 6:30-8pm; $3 donation (no one turned away for lack of funds); Pacific Ctr, Telegraph & Derby, Berk. Info: Camille Barber; 548-8283.

Gay & South Asian? You're not alone! Indian, Pakistani, Bangla Deshi, Sri Lankan, Nepali, Bhutani, Tibetan—men & women—this is our chance to find each other! Trikon, a new support group for gay men & lesbians from the Indian subcontinent. Info: Box 60536, Palo Alto 94306. (408) 729-4703.

S/M Support Group for Women of Color. Info: 647-0827.

Third World People with AIDS/ARC group spons by AIDS Project of the Eastbay. See AIDS Resources.

Lesbians of Color Against Abuse (LOCAA): see Incest & Battery.

Japanese Lesbian Group: Nihongo o Bokokugo to suru Lesbian no Group. Maitsuki Daini Nichiyobi Meeting Ari. Denwa (Yoru) 563-8253.

Gay Feminist Women of Color Group meets at Billy DeFrank Community Ctr, 1040 Park Ave, San Jose. Enjoy social & community activities, cultural exchanges, meeting new friends. Info: Rose (408) 298-5742.

El Grupo Sociocultural, a gay & lesbian Spanish club, meets monthly on Fridays. Everyone is asked to speak in Spanish. Native speakers & beginners welcome. Info: Walter 776-7476.

Large Black Lesbians: talk about our lives, not necessarily about weight—this is not a weight-loss group. Also do some light stretching & movement. For more info call Jan 841-4888 or Sharon 531-9267.

Asian Gay Men's Support Group: meets Thurs 7-9 pm at Pacific Ctr. Gay Asian men of all ages are welcome. Topics include: growing up gay & Asian, coming out to family & friends, racial & sexual stereotyping, relationships with other men, safe sexual practices, developing healthy self-images; and other topics chosen by the group. Info/res: 548-8283. 2712 Telegraph Ave at Derby, Berkeley.

Gay/Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) is an organization formed by & for gay men of Asian & Pacific Islander heritages. GAPA seeks to create a positive & visible presence for gay Asian/Pacifics in the SF Bay Area. Gen'l mtgs: every 2nd Sun of the month at MCC-SF, 150 Eureka St, SF. 6-8 pm. Also bimonthly newsletter "Lavender Godzilla", write to PO Box 421884, SF CA 94142-1884 to subscribe. Info: Donald Masuda 387-0466.

Lesbian/Gay People of Color AA mtg in East Bay—see Substance Addiction/Co-Addiction.

T'ai Chi Ch'uan group for lesbian, gay & bisexual people of color who practice T'ai Chi (yang form). See Ongoing Classes.

Cedar & Roses: support group for lesbian, gay & bisexual artists of color who are dealing with depression. See Performance Arts.

► PERFORMANCE ARTS

Mothertongue Feminist Theater Collective welcomes any woman with ideas to share & stories to tell—writing & performing experience not necessary. Info: 552-4929 848-5966.

Art Goers: visit galleries, museums, studios, poetry/performance events & special films with other women & men. Focus on modern & contemporary arts. Info: Tess 994-3002 or Richard 697-2830.

Temescal Gay Men's Chorus Rehearses in Berkeley. Call 843-1439 for info.

Girlfriends Productions: provides quality entertainment, recreational & educational services for the women's community, including retreats, seminars. Info/volunteer: 654-9284.

Community Women's Orchestra: all women who play an orchestral instrument, read music & have some prior ensemble experience (high school band does count!) encouraged to dust off those instruments & sign up. CWO is an amateur ensemble spons by the Bay Area Women's Philharmonic. New members are welcome, especially in the string section. Rehearsals 7:30-9:30 pm, in SF. Info: 626-4888.

Women Songwriters' monthly gathering/potluck, share songs, info, talk, food, jam. All styles welcome. Info: Judi or Tracy 731-7299.

SF Band Foundation Performance Groups Rehearsal Schedule: City Swing, Wednesdays; Flag Corp, Tuesdays; Marching Band & Twirling Corps, Tuesdays; Tap Troupe, Mondays & Wednesdays. All the above groups meet 7:30 pm at Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St, SF. Vocal Minority meets Tues & Thursdays, 7 pm, at the home of director Bill Ganz, 296 Divisadero St, SF. Info: SF Band Foundation 621-5619. New members are always welcome.

Bay Area Gay & Lesbian Band: performs & rehearses throughout the Bay Area: meetings held on a rotating basis in San Jose, SF, the East Bay & San Mateo. Mon eves at 7:30 pm. Info: 558-9693 or write: BAGAL Band, PO Box 280571, SF 94128-0571.

Arthouse Phone Line provides info about live/work studio space for artists in the SF Bay Area. See Hotlines & Referrals.

STBS, a nonprofit tix agency operated by Performing Arts Services, sells full-price tix in adv & half-price tix day of show. Proceeds benefit Bay Area performing arts. Booth at Union Square, 251 Stockton (bet Post & Geary) SF. Hrs: Tues-Thurs noon-7:30 pm, Fri-Sat noon-8 pm. Info: 433-STBS.

Noodlers! Used to play the clarinet, but... Get it back—it's yours! Join a women's clarinet choir—call Kate at 655-3383 for info.

GAWK (Gay Artists & Writers Kollective). Join rock musicians, singers, writers, cartoonists, comedians & others for eclectic, upbeat, fun socializing. Info: Jon Sugar 731-2424 or write 901 Stanyan St #14, SF 94117.

Fat Lip Readers Theatre: political theatre collective of fat, fiesty & diverse women who strut their stuff on stage & in wkshops. Submissions of poetry, prose, stories & analysis with a fat liberation perspective are welcome & respected. Info: PO Box 7717, Berkeley CA 94707-0717; 534-3384.

Cedar & Roses: support group for lesbian/gay/bisexual artists & performers of color dealing with depression. Info: 824-0213.

Dance the Samba! Sistah Boom, a multicultural women's percussion & dance ensemble, welcomes women of color to join. Sistah Boom performs Brazilian & Afro-Carribean dance. Info: Hannah 658-0826.

Voices: lesbian choral ensemble for women who value musical excellence. Info: 648-8590 or 229-2552.

► POLITICAL

Stonewall Gay Demo Club meets 7:30 pm, first Mon of each month at MCC, 150 Eureka St, SF.

East Bay Lesbian/Gay Demo Club meets monthly in Oakl & Berkeley. For location & other info, call Don 527-0801.

Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Demo Club meets every 2nd Mon at 7:45 pm at the Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St, SF. Info: 621-3296. Join & help in the fight to protect the rights of lesbians & gay men.

Harvey Milk Lesbian & Gay Demo Club gen'l mtg: every 4th Tues of month. 7:30 pm, Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St, SF. Info: 285-4742.

Feminists for Animal Rights welcomes women in working to end all forms of exploitation against animals. For info re newsletter, meetings, events, t-shirt etc, call 547-7251.

Alexander Hamilton American Legion Post #448: a veterans' organization of gays, lesbians and straight people of various races & ethnicities working together in harmony. Meets every 2nd Thurs of the month. Info: 431-1413 or 824-3907.

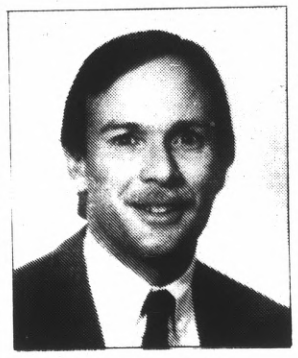
Freedom Democratic Caucus: a political alliance of lesbians & gay men serving Santa Cruz County. Info: POB Box 7293, Santa Cruz, 95061-7293.

SF Jewish Sanctuary Coalition supports efforts to aid refugees seeking safe haven in the US. Info: POB 411391, SF 94141-1391; or call 922-6946, 282-2636.

Lesbians & Gays Against Intervention (LAGAI) meets 1st Mon of each month, 7:15 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St, SF. New members welcome. Info: 821-9087.

Free Sharon Kowalski Committee works to aid Karen Thompson in her fight to gain custody of her disabled lover. Monthly mtgs. Info: 486-1746.

ACT UP/SF (formerly AIDS Action Pledge) meets every Thurs, 7:30 pm, MCC-SF, 150 Eureka St, SF. Direct action & civil disobedience to end the AIDS epidemic & the injustices around it. Act



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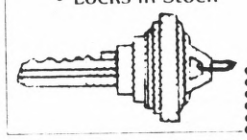

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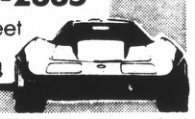

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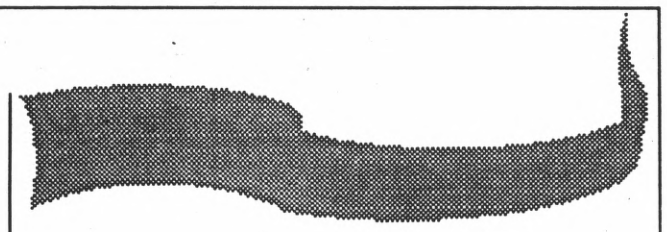

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BiPol: bisexual, lesbian & gay political action group of the SF Bay Area. Info: Lani Kaahumanu 821-3534 or write BiPol, 544 Castro St, SF 94114.

National Bisexual Network (NBN) acts as a clearinghouse for resources, AIDS information & political alerts. Visibility, education, pride. For newsletter: send $2 to NBN, 548 Castro St #422, SF 94114. Info: Lani 821-3534.

Lesbian Separatist Group—tired of hearing "I used to be a Separatist, but..." Are you furious when you hear Separatists publicly maligned? Join us—call 621-5645 or write PO Box 5283, Berkeley CA 94705. Lesbian seps who are women born women only.

Lesbian Agenda for Action: progressive, anti-racist membership organization committed to political & social action that promotes lesbian visibility. Info: 552-5677.

► SENIORS

Tea Dance & Social for older lesbians (60 & over) and friends. Enjoy refreshments in a beautiful garden. Last Sun of each month., call GLOE for exact time. Francis of Assissi, 145 Guerrero St nr Market, SF. Bring refreshments to share, donations appreciated. Spons by Operation Concern's GLOE (Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders). Info: 626-7000.

Men's Brunch for older gay men (60+) & friends. Noon-3 pm, 2nd Sun of each month. St Francis of Assisi Community Ctr, 145 Guerrero St, SF. Spons by GLOE. Info: 626-7000.

Men's Support Group for older gay men (60+). 7-8:30 pm, every Mon. Spons by Operation Concern's GLOE. 1853 Market St, SF. Call 626-7000 for info.

Writers Workshop for Lesbians & Gay Men (50+) spons by GLOE. Every Wed, 6-8 pm, at Operation Concern, 1853 Market St, SF. Info 626-7000.

Men's Support Group for older gay men (60+). 7-8:30 pm, every Mon, at Operation Concern, 1853 Market ST, SF. Spons by GLOE. Info: 626-7000.

Bereavement Support Group for Senior Gay Men: you don't have to be alone in your grief. Operation Concern's GLOE (Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elders) offers emotional support as well as practical assistance to gay men who are grieving the recent death of a lover or close friend. Info: George 626-7000.

Senior Information Line:—see Hotlines & Referrals.

Options Homeshare: lonely? rent too high, or need services in exchange for housing? See hotlines & referrals.

Legal Clinics for Gay & Lesbian Seniors: had problems with Medicare, housing, social security or other legal issues? Operation Concern's GLOE program & Legal Assistance to the Elderly spons a monthly intake site at Operation Concern (1853 Market St nr Guerrero, SF) where lesbian & gay seniors can meet with an LAE attorney to discuss specific legal issues. First Friday of every month, 10 am-noon. Prior appointment necessary, call GLOE 626-7000 or LAE 861-4444 to set up an appt or for more info on services.

Wednesday Matinee spons by GLOE: 2:15-4 pm, free. 363 Golden Gate Ave, SF. Lively afternoon of movies, discussion & refreshments. Co-spons by Operation Concern & North of Market Senior Services. Info: GLOE 626-7000.

► SOCIAL GROUPS

Girth & Mirth Club of SF meets Sat. Chubbies meet chasers meet chubbies. For info write: PO Box 528, SF 94101 or call 24-hr message hotline: 552-1143.

The Fraternal Order of Gays: 304 Gold Mine Dr, SF. Ongoing activities. Call 641-0999 or write for calendar of activities.

Feminist Lesbian Social Group (FLSG) meets once monthly in the S. Bay for a potluck. Open to all women who want to make new contacts & renew old ones. Info: FLSG, POB 70933, Sunnyvale 94086.

Gay & Lesbian Social: held 2nd Fri of each month. 7:30-11 pm, Eastbay location. Free, all encouraged to bring snack or beverage to share. Everyone expected to speak in Spanish. Native speakers & learners welcome. Info: Walter 776-7476; Valentin 538-4980.

UCGALA (Univ of Calif Gay & Lesbian Alumni Assoc). Open to graduates and anyone else who obtained 12 or more units at any UC campus. Annual membership: $10. For info & to get on mailing list (confidentiality assured), call 547-2200.

Men's Social Group of Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church meets 3rd Sun of each month, 6:30 pm. For info/location: 827-2960.

Grupo Sociocultural Espanol: Tenemos nuestra reunion el segundo Viernes de cada mes. El grupo es para Damas y Caballeros que habian Espanol. Para mas informacion llamen a Walter 776-7476 o Roberto 550-6619.

BFSF (BiFriendly-SF): social group open to bisexuals & bifriendly others. BFSF spons Bi Night Out—every Tues night at cafe nr Castro St, SF, 7 pm mtg for dinner & friendship. Also BGIF (Bi God It's Friday!) wkly Fri get-together for fun & friendship with other bisexuals—6-8 pm at Cafe San Marcos, 2369 Market at Castro, SF, meet on outside patio deck. For other activites, newsletter & info write Box #281, 1850 Union St, SF 94123, or call 753-0687..

Social Group for Disabled Gays/Bis: meet 2nd & 4th Fri of each month for parties, potlucks & outings. Info: Carol 863-1162, Bob D 552-9640.

Dear Sir: social group for couples & singles. Don't do things alone—share your ideas, relax by being with others. Dining, films, plays, opera, etc. Info: Dear Sir, 41 Sutter St, Ste 1244, SF 94104 or call 525-2028.

► SPIRITUALITY

AIDS Ecumenical Healing Services: see AIDS Resources.

Ahavat Shalom, lesbian, gay & bisexual synagogue. Shabbat services 8:15 pm, Fridays. MCC, 150 Eureka St, SF. 621-1020.

Shabbat Services with Sha'ar Zahav, Jewish lesbian/gay congregation. Every Fri at 8:15 pm & last Saturday of each month, 10:30 am. 220 Danvers (upper Market), SF. 861-6932.

Jewish Lesbians & friends meet to celebrate Shabbat, 1st Fri of each month, EB location. Join us for song, food & Jewish culture—no experience necessary! Jewish women of color and Sephardic women especially welcome. Info: 653-8745, 531-5465.

Jewish Lesbian Rosh Chodesh group: come celebrate & welcome the new moon. Monthly gathering to discover creative rituals drawing on our Jewish heritage to meet our current needs. Info: Debra 534-2344, Bonnie 826-9405.

Feminist Minyan (Jewish Prayer Group) in SF: a new minyan for feminist women & men: uses unique blend of traditional prayer with inclusive imagery & language. Rabbi Charisse Kranes & Cantor Linda Hirschhorn. 10 am service. For info/location: Rabbi Kranes 285-5640 or Linda Hirschhorn 654-0799.

Angel Group meets 7:30 pm, Oakland parlor sanctuary. Share Angel stories, literature, art & music. Discussion, guided meditation, candlelight ceremony. Women & men of all religious backgrounds welcome. Winged Goddess/Deva/Fairy orientation. Led by Suzanne Judith, Spiritual Guide. Info: 658-7797.

Sunday's Women: a Dianic gathering in SF dedicated to the Goddess in her many guises. 3rd Sun of each month, 11:30 am at Montclair Women's Club, 1650 Mountain Blvd, Oakl. Different Goddess speakers each month, mini-rituals. See Main Calendar for details. Info: 444-7724.

Tayu Fellowship, a Fourth Way Spiritual School. Box 11554, Santa Rosa, 95406. Info: (707) 829-2579.

Emergence/SF: support group for Christian Scientists. Meets Fri, 7:30 pm. For location/info: 485-1881.

St Marks Lutheran Church Communion: Sun, 8:30 & 11 am, 1111 O'Farrell at Gough, SF. Info: 928-7770.

St Paul's Lutheran Church: worship & Eucharist, Sun, 10 am. 1658 Excelsior Ave, Oakl (just off I-580). Info: 530-6333.

Acceptance: Baptist Bible Study & support group meets Wednes-days, 7:30 pm. Location varies. Everyone is welcome. For info: 843-9705, 626-5034.

Baptist: American American Baptists Concerned (a gay/lesbian caucus) meets first Sun of each month (except summer). Also publishes quarterly newsletter, *Voice of the Turtle*. To join mailing list send $7 to ABC, 870 Erie St, Oakl 94610. For mtg info: 465-2778, 465-8652.

Dolores Street Baptist Church (Southern Baptist) worship service at 10 am. Everyone welcome to a congregation where gay/lesbian and non-gay people worship openly together. 208 Dolores St at 15th, SF. Info: Acceptance 843-9705, 626-5034.

Dignity/SF: Gay & Lesbian Catholics, friends & families celebrate the Eucharist, Sun 5:30 pm, St Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate Ave (bet Jones & Leavenworth) SF. SIGN 584-1714.

Dignity/East Bay: Lesbian/Gay Catholics celebrate positive liturgy on 2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month, 6pm; University Christian Church "Annex," 2401 LeConte, Berk. Raps, social events, too. Info: 995-2535.

Presbyterians for Lesbian/Gay Concerns: nurture, study, worship, social events for Presbyterians in greater Bay Area. Info: Dick & Craig 268-9534.

Community of the Love of Christ: worship with an Ecumenical Catholic Church-Community celebrating the unconditional love of God for all people. Sunday & midweek house Eucharist, SF & EB locations. Info: 864-2799(SF), 236-3820(EB).

Christian Women's Support Group meets 4th Sat of each month. Inclusive language eucharist, potluck, fellowship. Info: Kris Wagner 534-5546, Bonita Palmer 647-8390.

Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) Sun worship services at 48 Belcher St, SF. 12:30 pm & 7 pm. 621-6300.

SF MCC Sun worship services, 10:30 am & 7 pm. 150 Eureka St, SF. CC provided for 10:30 am service. Info: 863-4434.

Women's Gatherings: time for spirituality & sharing. 7:30-9 pm every 4th Mon of month. Childcare provided w/advance res. Spons by MCC-SF. 150 Eureka St, SF. Info: 863-4434.

New Life MCC Sun worship service: 1823 9th St at Hearst, Berkeley. 5 pm. SIGN. WA. Info: 843-9355.

Maranatha MCC worship service, Sun 6 pm, Starr King Unitarian Church, 22577 Bayview St, Hayward. Also open rap group Wed, 7 pm. 881-5649.

Diablo Valley MCC Sun worship service, 10 am, 2253 Concord Blvd, Concord. Wed worship, 7 pm, followed by lay ministry courses at 8:15 pm. Info: 827-2960.

Russian River MCC Sun worship service: Noon, 14520 Armstrong Woods Rd, Guerneville. Info: Rev Linda Laster (707) 869-0552.

Holy Trinity Community Church of San Jose, a Christian church w/a special ministry to the gay & lesbian community. Emphasis on healing ministry, gifts of the Holy Spirit. Support of gay/lesbian causes. 10 am. First United Methodist Church Chapel, 24 N 5th St, downtown San Jose. Info: Rev. F. Randall Hill, (408)292-3071.

Hartford Street Zen Ctr, Zen Buddhist Meditation group in the Castro. Zazen daily, 5am-5:50am & 6pm, M-F. Lecture 10 am Sundays. 57 Hartford St. Info: 863-2507.

MCC Santa Rosa, a Christian church family of gay/lesbian people, meets Sundays, 11 am; 515 Orchard St. Info: (707) 546-8106.

Gay & Lesbian Mass: lesbian & gay affirming worship. All welcome. Nonsexist language. Healing prayers offered each service. Spons by Integrity, a community of gay & lesbian Episcopalians & friends. 5:30 pm Sun at St John's, 1661 15th St, SF. Info: Deborah Franquist 648-4026 (eves) or David Bentley 431-5859.

Women-in-Integrity: Women's ministry within a lesbian & gay affirming community of Episcopalians & friends. 3rd Sun of each month. 5:30 pm at St John's, 1661 15th St, SF. Info: Bonita Palmer 647-8390.

The Parsonage: ministry of the Episcopal Church in the lesbian & gay community. Programs include: prison ministry, parish outreach, newsletter ($10 per year), personal growth training classes & more. Info: 552-2909.

Most Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Church, 100 Diamond St, SF. Mass: 5 pm Sat, 7 & 10 am Sun, wkdays at 8 am. Info: 863-6259.

GALOC (Gay & Lesbian Outreach Committee) of Most Holy Redeemer Church welcomes lesbians & gay men to MHR parish. Come join us! For info: 863-6259.

Tayu Study Group: see Ongoing Classes for details.

Santa Rosa Gay Men's Sitting Meditation Group: 8 pm Wed. Info: (707) 526-6618.

Avatar Meher Baba: gay & lesbian followers discuss His Discourses. All are welcome. 8 pm. Dolores St Baptist Church, 15th & Dolores St, SF. Info: Larry 441-7008.

Wed Night Meditation & Healing Circle: experience the peace & grace of the moment. Goddess/God consciousness, visualization, breathwork. 7:30 pm, 1296 Haight #25, SF. Info: 864-5483.

Eastern Orthodox Holy Ascension Mission: divine liturgy Sun 10 am; vigil Sat 6:30 pm. Counseling, sick calls, funerals available. Monthly healing service. Chapel at 1671 Golden Gate #2, SF. Info: 563-8514.

A Course in Miracles presents another way to live—ongoing mtgs Wed, 7:30-9 pm, 740 Baker St. Info: 921-3774.

A Course in Miracles text group meets 7:30-9 pm Thurs at Ctr of Excellence, 2517 Van Ness at Union, SF. Facilitated by Murai & John Herricke. Info: 474-0323, 567-4402. Donation.

Radical Faeries: an eclectic group of gay male witches, wizards, shamans, gypsies, sissies, hippies, Deadheads, pagans, anarchists, magicians, astrologers, you name it; who all share a common love for Mother Earth & celebrate gay male mysteries. Wkly Faerie circles meet Thurs eves at 8 pm, bring instruments & energy! 24-hr info line (Tele-Faerie): 648-6064.

United Church of Christ: friendly, liberal Protestant church. Uses inclusive language, open to all. Sun eves, 7 pm, 777 Oakland Ave, Oakl. Info: 834-8135. Also discussion, movie & service groups.

The Church of Amron, a metaphysical ministry, holds solstice services, healing

circles, classes on yoga, metaphysics, channeling, ritual, affirmations, shaman drumming, & much more. 2254 Van Ness Ave at Vallejo, SF. For info call 775-0227.

► SPORTS

SF Track & Field practice sessions: Sun 10:30 am, open to men & women of all ages & abilities. Prepare for Gay Games III now—call Rick 641-1786 for info.

SF Frontrunners is a running club for lesbians & gay men. All levels welcome. Free runs: every Thurs at 6:30 pm, McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park, SF, followed by dinner; Sat at 9 am, Stow Lake Boathouse, Golden Gate Park, followed by brunch; & every Sun at 10 am at various locations (see Main Calendar), followed by brunch. First Sat of every month, one of the 6 Fun Runs will be especially for women. Business mtgs/potlucks 1st Sun of each month (after Run). Info: Jim 922-1435 or Margaret 821-3719

Eastbay Frontrunner's Club sponsors noncompetitive runs in various Eastbay locations. Runs begin Sat at 9:30 am, followed by socializing & food. CC available. Info: Jill 526-7315, Mary Ann 526-3506, Ray 261-3246.

Women On Wheels (bike club) offers short & long distance recreational & touring rides. For details write: WOW 175 11th Ave, SF 94118.

Different Spokes, a bicycle club for lesbians & gays, with participation open to all. All levels welcome. Decide & Rides every Sat, 1 pm, Sun 10 am at McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park, SF. Monthly newsletter lists scheduled rides. Gen'l mtg 1st Tues of each month: 7 pm at Park Branch Public Library, 1833 Page ST, SF. Info/newsletter: write PO Box 14711, SF 94114-0711 or call 771-0677 (24 hrs). Join us!

SF Hiking Club: join us for day trips, backpacking & social activities. See calendar listing for this month's schedule. For more info write: SF Hiking Club, POB 421273, SF 94142-1273.

Wilderness Women offer monthly excursions for women. Day hikes & longer trips. Info: Wilderness Women, 5329 Manila Ave, Oakland CA 94618.

Gay/Lesbian Sierrans: escape the madness of the city, explore & appreciate the beautiful outdoors. GLS presents 1-3 hikes each week; plus monthly program on 3rd Tues of each month, 7:30 pm, Nat'l Sierra Club, Polk St at Ellis, SF. For SIGN, call TDD 776-8107. For info & free sample newsletter: 653-5012 (24-hrs).

Golden Gate Wrestling Club: meets 7:30-9:30 pm Tues & Thurs at Chris Bolt's Lightning Bolt Martial Arts Studio, 317A 10th St (at Folsom), SF. Freestyle instruction, competition & practice. All ages, weights & experiences levels welcome. Info: Gene 821-2991 or Gary 558-9195.

SF Wrestling Club works out alternate Saturdays. Call Jim 538-8490 for details.

Gay Tennis Federation: lesbian & gay tennis club. All levels of play welcome. Monthly mtg 7:30 pm, 3rd Mon of each month at Community Rentals, 470 Castro St, SF. Info: Tom Kelly 552-9595 or write: GTF, 2215-R Market St, Ste 109, SF CA 94114.

Mountain Dykers: very informal rides for lesbians with mountain bikes. Leave message: 658-2028.

BORP (Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program provides & promotes recreation, sports & fitness by & for physically disabled people: wilderness trips, wheelchair sports (sponsor of the local women's wheelchair basketball team—the Bay Area Meteorites), children & youth programs, older adults program. Info: 849-4663 voice/TDD.

Pacific Assn of Women Martial Artists: promotes martial arts training for women. Works to "improve the physical, mental, & spiritual development of women martial artists" thru the fostering of mutual respect among divergent styles of training & diverse groups of women. Dues $15 annually. For info write SASE: PAWMA, POB 858, Berkeley, CA 94701-0858.

Homopolo Gay & Lesbian Waterpolo Team: meets Tues eves for coached workouts, 7:15-9 pm. Oakland High School Pool, 1055 MacArthur Blvd (take 580 to Park St Exit), Oakl. All levels of swimmers encouraged. Info: Ralph Doore 824-4848.

Tsunami Gay & Lesbian Masters Swim Team meets every Sun, 9:30-11 am, for coached workouts. Martin Luther King Pool, 3rd St at Caroll Ave. All levels welcome, don't be afraid to take the plunge! Info: Mark Lipinski 221-8153.

Physically Fit Women interested in strenuous outdoor adventuring (hiking, backpacking, rafting, etc): call Gail 552-7517 (SF) or Connie 452-3579 (EB) Terri (Contra Costa) 837-2102.

Out of Bounds Golfing Club provides support & golf outings, encouragement & companionship to gay men & lesbians of all abilities who enjy golf. Info: 647-3687.

Gay Golfing Group: All levels of expertise welcome. Play wkdays & wkends. Info: 821-4741 days, ask for Wayne.

Volleyball-For-All: open volleyball for gay & lesbian beginners. Each Sun at Golden Gate Park, SF. Noon-5 pm, free; thru Sept. Spons by X-TA-C Volleyball. Info/exact location: 995-2736.

Adventuresome Dykes interested in hiking, backpacking, beachcombing, canoeing, birdwatching, etc. Small groups. Info: Marty 751-0341.

Wimmin Pumping Iron Network: (WPIN) for lesbian & bisexual wimmin (regardless of experience level). Swap tips on nutrition & exercise, work out together, educate each other. Info: 824-0213.

Gay/Lesbian Sailing Club: get out on the Bay for learning, fun, mtg others & going places. Not-for-profit group, primarily for those without boats. Novice to advanced levels welcome. Info: Bruce 346-2982.

Badminton Lovers Unite! Join us, have fun, get ready for 1990 Gay Games. Info: Judie Messier 647-3204.

► SUBSTANCE ADDICTION/ CO-ADDICTION

Lesbians in Recovery from drug & alcohol dependency: therapy groups at the Iris Project for women 21 days substance-free, 1st 6 months substance-free, & 12-16 months substance-free. Also groups for recovering lesbians of color, incest survivors, and adult daughters of alcoholics. Info: 864-2364.

Adult Children of Alcoholics ongoing & time-limited therapy groups at the Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic. SL, no one turned away for lack of funds. Info/intake appt: 552-7230

Lesbian/Gay People of Color AA mtgs at Berkeley Community YWCA, 2134 Allston Way, Berkeley. Sat 10:30 am. Info: 653-4300.

Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous mtg. All Saints Church, 1350 Waller St, SF. Beginner's mtg Mon 7:15-7:45 pm; reg mtg Mon 8-9:15 pm. WA. Info/list of SF AA mtgs: 661-1828.

Gay Alcoholics Anonymous mtg, Most Holy Redeemer Church, 117 Diamond St, SF. Wed 8-9 pm. 661-1828.

Al-Anon for Gay Men and Women meets Tues, 8 pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, Bush & Gough Sts, SF. Al-anon is made up of people who have been deeply affected by alcoholism in a family member, lover or friend, who meet to share experience, strength & hope in dealing with common problems. Info/list of SF Al-Anon mtgs: 626-5633

Adult Children of Alcoholics for Gay Men: Al-Anon Family Group meets Thurs, 8 pm, at MCC, 150 Eureka St, SF. Info: 626-5633.

Adult Children of Alcoholics 12-step program for lesbians & gay men meets 8 pm Wed at MCC, 150 Eureka St, SF. Info: 824-9474.

Al-Anon People of Color ACA Lesbian/gay Family Group meets Fri, 7:30 pm, 225 30th St bet Church & Dolores, SF. Info: 626-5633.

Overcoming Violent Behavior Anonymous: 12-step fellowship for batterers based on the principles of AA. Women-only mtg. Wed 6:30-7:45 pm, Pacific Ctr, 2712 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley.

Men's Overeaters Anon Mtg: every Wed, 8-9:30 pm; SF Home Health Service, 225 30th St, rms 225/226, SF. For info on OA meetings for gay/lesbians & others call OA Hotline: 665-0851.

AIDS/ARC/HIV+ Gay Support Group—see AIDS Resources. Spons by Operation Concern.

Cocaine Anon: gay/lesbian (all welcome). Thurs, 7:30 pm, MCC, 150 Eureka St at 18th, SF. Info: 563-2358.

Narcotics Anon mtg at Diablo Valley MCC, 2253 Concord Blvd, Concord. 8 pm. Info: 827-2960.

Narcotics Anon mtg at Pacific Ctr, 2712 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley. Sun, 7:15 pm.

Fundamentalists Anonymous support group: explore the experience of having once been a fundamentalist Christian with others who've been there, too. Call 832-2334.

Quit Smoking Clinic: 8-session courses for smokers who are serious about quitting. Led by ex-smokers. $30 includes all materials. Limited enrollment. Spons by SF Dept of Public Health. Info/res: 558-2444, 558-2226.

Gay Men's Recovery Program incorporating education, intensive group work & socializing. Info: Operation Recovery 626-7000.

Gay Men Co-Dependents Group. Do you have a lover, friend or relative who has a problem with alcohol and/or drugs? Get support for them & you. Info: Operation Recovery 626-7000.

Gay Men's Co-Dependency Group: if you are or have been involved with a lover or friend with alcoholism or an addiction, you may benefit from the support of others who've been there, too. Tues & Wed eve groups. Info: Tom Moon 386-6791, or Michael Graves 824-8047.

ACA Group: mixed, coed longterm therapy group led by experienced therapist. Info: 621-4353.

Co-Dependency Counseling for gay men whose lover or "significant other" has a problem with drugs or alcohol. 18th Street Services, 217 Church St, SF. Info: 861-4898.

ACA Therapy Group for Gay Men meets Tues eves 8 pm-9:30 pm. Info: Scott Madover, MFCC 929-0778 or Dan Joy, LCSW 285-6067. Intake appt required.

Co-Dependency Group for Lesbians, SF location. Led by licenesed therapist. Info: 621-4353.

Gay/Bi/Adult Children of Alcoholics Group: have trouble trusting others, expressing emotions, or having intimate relationships? Recovery leads to getting more out of life. A supportive therapy group can help bridge the past & the present. Info: Dan Joy, LCSW; 285-6067.

Recovery Counseling for individuals & couples wanting to take their 12-step work to a deeper level. For free telephone consultation, call Adrian Bruce Tiller, MS; 346-2399.

Gay Men Drop in Education Group for Gay Men dealing with issues around alcohol, drugs & sex. Tuesdays 6-7:30pm. Info: Operation Concern 626-7000.

Al-Anon for Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics: Wed 7:30-8:45 pm, SF Home Health Services Bldg, 225 30th St, SF. Info: 626-5633.

Marin Al-Anon for gay men & women: Wed 8:30 pm. Info: 924-3430.

Adult Children of Alcoholics: ongoing therapy groups in SF & Berkeley, daytime & evening. Info: Judy Wohlberg, MFCC, 641-1243.

Getting On With Life: group for women with a minimum of 2 years 12 Step recovery. Addressses making hopes & dreams a reality. East Bay location. Thurs 3-4:15 pm, $15/wk. Info: Thana Christian, LCSW 547-1779.

Marijuana Recovery Support Group for Women. Mon 5:30 pm at MCC-SF 150 Eureka St, SF. Room 204. This is NOT a 12-Step program. Info: 334-8670.

Women's Co-Dependency Group for "women who love too much", who can't meet their needs, who stay in relationships even when unhappy & in pain. Tues 5:30-6:45 pm. $15/wk. Piedmont Ave-Oakl location. Info: Thana Christian, LCSW 547-1779.

Women's ACA Groups: 12-wk educational groups. Intense exposure to info on codependency issues & recovery; ongoing ACA therapy group. $25/wk. Piedmont Ave-Oakl location. Info: Thana Christian, LCSW 547-1779.

Adult Children of Alcoholics Therapy Group offered by Lifestyles Counseling Associates, 91 Gregory Lane, Ste 17, Pleasant Hill. Led by Pat Hart, MFCC. Info: 687-6706.

Substance Abuse Treatment for persons w/AIDS, spons by 18th St Services—see AIDS Resources or call 861-4898.

Gay Men: Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counseling spons by 18th St Services: individual & group counseling, sliding scale fees. Info on gay substance abuse problems. 217 Church St, SF. Info: 861-4898.

Gay Support Group for people with alcohol/substance abuse issues. Individual & group process. Spons by Operation Concern's Operation Recovery, 1853 Market St, SF. Info: 626-7000 voice/tty.

Gay Men in Chemical Dependency and/or ACA Recovery: well-established private therapy group for gay men wishing to add more meaning & dimension to their recovery programs. Members work on relationships, ACA relief, codependency, fear of intimacy, trust, self-esteem, depression, sexual & career concerns & other issues. Professional, confidential & caring. Info: John Beeman, MA, MFCC 626-6196.

Women's Early Recovery Group for addicts & alcoholics in their first year of sobriety. Thurs 5:30-6:45 pm. $15/wk. Piedmont Ave-Oakl location. 12 Step mtgs required. Info: Thana Christian, LCSW 547-1779.

Lesbian Couples in Recovery Group: for couples where one or both partners are in a 12-step recovery program. Focus: using programs tools to deal with relationship issues—intimacy fears, boundaries, sexuality, communication, etc. 12-wk groups meet Mondays in Oakl, 7:30-9:30 pm; Wednesdays in SF, 8-10 pm. Info: Chris Peters 531-8565.

► SUPPORT GROUPS

Rap Group for Gay Men at Pacific Ctr, Mon 7:45pm & Tues 8pm. Followed by coffee & social hour for Gay/Bi men. Men welcome to attend either/both activities. 2712 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley. Info: 841-6224.

Bisexual Women's Rap: you don't need to be bisexual but you MUST be

Julian Baird

Spiritual Counselor and Teacher
Healing thru the Power of Love

Julian has 15 years experience as a conscious Channel and Metaphysical teacher

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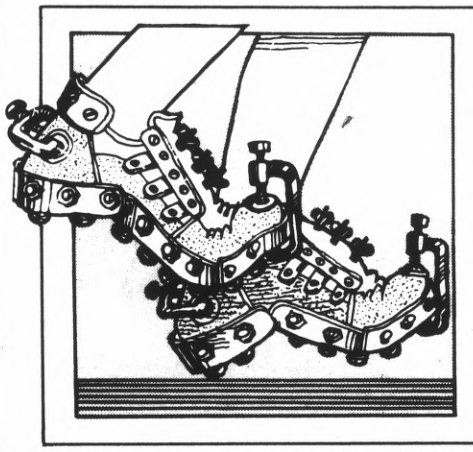

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Worship Celebration
People of Color Service
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Tuesday, September 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Womyn's Meeting
134 Church Street

Monday to Friday,
Rest Stop Support Center
for People with AIDS/ARC/HIV's
and their families and friends
134 Church Street

Every Sunday
Worship Celebrations
12:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Call for Other Scheduled Events

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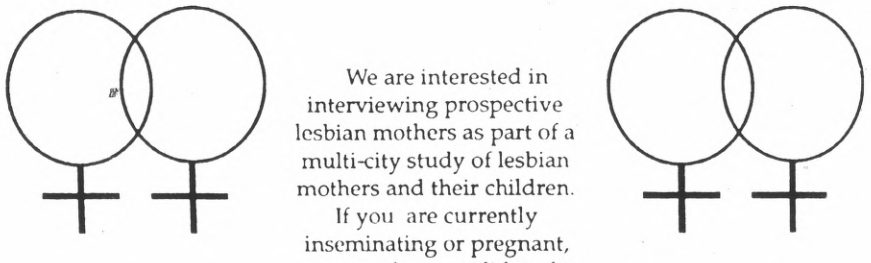

We are interested in interviewing prospective lesbian mothers as part of a multi-city study of lesbian mothers and their children. If you are currently inseminating or pregnant, you may be a candidate for the study. If you have a partner who will be co-mothering, she also may be included.

The study is set up as a 20-year longitudinal study of lesbian families. The first interview will take place before the baby is born (or before conception, for women who are currently inseminating). Follow-up interviews will take place when the child is between 1 and 2 years old and when the child is 5, 10, and 17 years.

The interviewer will meet you at your home. All interviewers are lesbian mental health professionals.

If you would like to consider participating, please call Nanette Gartrell, M.D. at 775-2350.

female & willing to discuss bisexuality & related issues. WA & SIGN. Wed, 8-9:45 pm, Pacific Ctr, Berkeley. Info: 841-6224.

Bay Area Bisexual Network: umbrella organization for bisexual groups, resources & people. Open to everyone, whether or not they consider themselves bisexuals. Info: 522-5553.

Bisexual Significant Others Group meets Sun, 7-9 pm. For women & men, regardless of sexual preference. Pacific Ctr, Berkeley. Info: 841-6224.

Bisexual Women's & Men's Group: Drop-in on Sun at 7 pm. Pacific Ctr, Berk. Info: 841-6224.

Bisexual Women's Rap spons by BiFriendly-SF: Wkly Wed discussion of bisexual women's issues. Free. Info/location: 695-7821.

Rosenfelsian Support Group guided by the work of Paul Rosenfels, MD, author of *Homosexuality: The Psychology of the Creative Process*. An alternative direction for gay life. Info: Tom 552-8592.

Fundamentalists Anonymous mtg: see Substance Addiction/Co-Addiction.

Women's Cancer Support Group: drop-in group; place to meet, share thoughts & feelings, discuss issues with other women who have or have had cancer. 1st & 3rd Mon of each month, 6:30-8 pm, Old Providence Hospital, 5th floor, Alameda County Unit of the American Cancer Society, 3100 Summit, St, Oakland. Facilitated by Jackie Winnow & Regina Quemere, MSN. $5 donation, no one turned away for lack of funds. WA. Info: 658-8149, 653-9028.

Family Cancer Program at SF's Mt Zion Hospital offers support, info & coping skills to kids & adolescents whose parents have cancer. Info: Janine Nesset 775-5921.

Married Gay & Bi Men's Rap Group meets Wed at 8 pm, Pacific Ctr, Berk. Drop-in. Info: 841-6224.

East Bay SOL group for women over 30. Thurs, 7:30 pm, Pacific Ctr, Berk. Info: 841-6224.

Lesbians Over 40: SOL too young? A touch (or a whole lot) of gray turn you on? Come to a drop-in rap at Options Ctr, Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St, SF. Wed 6-8 pm. Info: 431-6405.

Transvestites & Transexuals rap group (women & men): 1st and 3rd Wed and last Fri monthly, 8 pm, Pacific Ctr. Info: 841-6224.

Transsexual Support Group: Tues 8-9:45 pm. Drop-in. Pacific Ctr, Berkeley. Info: 841-6224.

Gay Men's Support Group in Fairfield. Raps & socials, Thurs 7:30-10 pm. Info: (707) 448-1010 or write PO Box 73, Fairfield, CA 94533.

Federal Lesbians and Gays (FLAG) offers support, advice, activities for Federal Employees. Mtg 2nd Wednesday of each month, 6pm. SF. Info: 695-9174.

Lesbian Adoptees: open group discussing issues around search, reunion, depression, anger, abandonment, identity, etc. Meets every other Sun in SF. Info: Amy 923-1454.

Adoptees, Birth Parents & Adoptive Parents support groups meet throughout the Bay Area. For info/locations: Post Adoption Center for Education & Research (PACER) 935-6622.

Bay Area Career Women: professional org. for lesbians that offers support, educational opportunities, contacts & more. Info: 495-5393.

Mensa Lesbians-SF: Mensa is an organization for people who score in the top 2 percent on a standardized IQ test. Mensa Lesbians-SF is a purely social group enabling Mensa Lesbians to meet in a supportive atmosphere. For info: Delene Moyle 256-9075 or write PO Box 273072, Concord CA 94527.

Partners, Intimates & Friends of chronically ill & disabled lesbians: meet twice a month to talk about co-ing, sex (or lack of), caring, limits & all the rest! Lesbian only. Women born women only. SF people needed. Free. Info: 664-6842 (SF), 632-3847 (EB).

Eastbay Lesbian S/M Support Group: for all lesbians with a positive interest in s/m & leather. Lesbians only. Have a hard time resolving your politics, spirituality or feelings with being a lesbian & into leather: this group is for you! Call 654-1591 or write: POB 20365 Oakland 94620.

Woman to Woman SM: Join the Outcasts, an educational, support & social group for lesbian, bisexual & transsexual women interested in SM with other women. Info/membership: write POB 31266, SF CA 94131-0266.

Eastbay Lesbian S/M Support Group: for all lesbians with a positive interest in s/m & leather. 2nd Thurs of each month. 8 pm. Lesbians only. Have a hard time resolving your politics, spirituality or feelings with being a lesbian & into leather? Call: 654-1591 or write POB 20365 Oakl, 94611.

S/M Lesbian Support/Discussion group. No perfumes or scents. Info/location: 668-4622.

Oakland/East Bay Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (Parents FLAG) holds support groups for parents, relatives & friends of lesbian & gay people. Each 4th Tues. Info: Betty McCall 547-4657.

Berkeley PFLAG: 1st Wed of each month. Info: Ann 486-0534.

SF PFLAG: 2nd Sun each month, 2 pm. St Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St, SF (enter gate left of church). All welcome. Info: Mary 928-2748.

Mid-Peninsula PFLAG meets 3rd Thurs of each month at University Lutheran Church, 1611 Stanford Ave, Palo Alto. 7:30 pm. Info & support for families & friends of gay men & lesbians. Info: Verda 854-0142.

Diablo Valley PFLAG meets every 3rd Tues, Diablo Valley MCC, 2253 Concord Blvd, Concord. Info: POB 2174, Martinez, 94553 or call 372-9014.

Southbay PFLAG meets 2nd Wed of each month, San Jose location. Info: Nancy (408) 270-8182.

Marin PFLAG: welcomes & supports parents, spouses, siblings, friends & lesbians & gays to its mtgs. 2nd Wed of every month, 26 Kensington Ct, San Anselmo. Info: 479-3535.

BANGLE , Bay Area Network of Gay & Lesbian Educators, meets 3rd Thurs of each month, 6:30 pm, 655 14th St, SF. Info: Rob 864-4099, Barbara 285-5078.

BANGLE East Bay meets 7-8:30 pm, 5030 Golden Gate Ave, Oakl. Info: 547-2200.

Peninsula Women's Group, a support & networking group for lesbians, meets every Wed at 7:30 pm at Two Sisters Bookstore, 605 Cambridge, Menlo Park. For info/calendar: Diane 349-5189.

Palo Alto Lesbian Rap Group: discussion group for all lesbians. Meet Thurs 7:30 pm at the Palo Alto YWCA, 4161 Alma (just south of San Antonio), Palo Alto. Different topics each week, see Main Calendar for details. Info: Marilyn 969-1260.

Coming Out Support Group for Women. Drop-in. Thurs, 6-7:30 pm, Pacific Ctr, Berkeley. Info: 841-6224.

SF/Bay Area Phobia Society: help for phobia sufferers & their friends. Provides place to share feelings, goals, discuss progress. Info: 324-2630.

East Bay Lesbian Rap: fun, relaxed atmosphere—come make new friends! Tues, 8-9:30 pm at Pacific Ctr, 2712 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley. Info: Ana or Barbara 548-8283.

Gay Men's Support Group: SF location. Tuesdays, ongoing. Self-led group deals with a wide range of personal issues. Seeks new members open to sharing & working together in a structured setting. Info: Ja 626-6396.

Women with Seriously Ill or Disabled Parents: free support group. Discuss love, grief, joy; limit-setting, care-taking. Eastbay location. Info: 547-7734.

Depression Support Group in the East Bay. All welcome. Warm, supportive, growth-oriented. No fee, donations accepted. Info: call Lori 658-3980.

Lesbian EI Support Group: East Bay Environmental Illness support group. Info: MJ 536-7251, Mickey 843-2649, Maja 548-1549.

UC Berkeley Gay & Lesbian Alumni Assoc: see Social Groups

Southern Women's Alliance: informal support group of relocated progressive southern women. Monthly potluck. Good food & good company. New folks welcome. Info/location: Jeanne 891-9410.

Italian-American Lesbians Unite: Una Famiglia provides support, addresses the cultural & political concerns of Italian American & Sicilian American lesbians, and the difficulties of resisting assimilation into Anglo culture. Need a pasta fix? Call Janet 654-3531 (Oakl) or Rose 863-8147 (SF).

Lesbian Separatist Group: Tired of hearing "I used to be a Separatist but..." Are you furious when you hear Separatists publicly maligned? Call 621-5645 or write PO Box 5283, Berkeley CA 94705. Lesbian seps who are women born women only.

HIV Negative Support Groups: see AIDS Resources.

Therapists for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (TLGC): a network of supportive women therapists experienced in working with the lesbian & gay community. Monthly mtgs alternate bet panel discussions & member presentations. Social & professional networking. Referral list & speaker's bureau available. Info: Debbie 969-4853.

Assoc of Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Therapists: all psychotherapists are welcome to join: Jan 474-9985.

► THERAPY GROUPS

Women's Institute for Mental Health: low-fee therapy for individuals & couples, women only. SL starts at $10. Special services: group for lesbian incest survivors, drug & alcohol counseling (thru IRIS—outpatient only), women's occupational stress resource ctr. 264 Valencia St. SF. Open Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm, eves by appt. Info: 864-2364.

Gay Men's Ongoing Psychotherapy Group: members, with professional guidance, support each other in building self-esteem, creating healthier relationships, & overcoming issues such as loneliness, depression, homophobia & emotional confusion. Longterm group, limited to 8 members. Meets Thurs, 7:30-10 pm. Info: Dave Cooperberg, MA 431-3220 or Pedro Rojas, MA 841-9198.

Disabled Lesbian Group for women with physical disabilities, hidden disabilities, chronic illness & chronic pain. Wed & Thurs at Operation Concern. WA, SL. Info: Ricki Boden or Daryl Goldman 626-7000 voice/tty.

Gay Men's Disabled Group: are you a gay man with a physical/hidden disability? Isolated & in need of support/therapy? Call Tom Ossenbeck 626-7000 v/tty. Group held at Operation Concern, 1853 Market St, SF.

Sexual Compulsive Group for gay men: an ongoing psychotherapy group for gay men whose sexual behavior is out of control. Monday eves at Operation Concern, SF. Info: Jim Fishman 626-7000.

Grief Group for those who have lost a loved one thru suicide. Deal with feelings of anger, confusion, guilt. Find strength, support. Meets wkly for 8 wks, lic therapist facilitates. Spons by SF Suicide Prevention. Info: 752-4866.

Gay Men's Groups at Operation Concern: new 12-wk process group starts each month. Safe place to develop your interpersonal relating skills. Preliminary interview required. Info: Operation Concern 626-7000.

Separation & Survival Group for lesbians experiencing the ending of an intimate relationship. Safe place to let go, begin the healing process. 12-wk groups, SF & Eastbay locations. Info: Chris Peters, MSW 531-8565.

Longterm Psychotherapy Group for Gay Men: call Gordon Murray, MFCC 821-1718 or Mark Lodico, MA 845-4312.

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Lesbian Couples Therapy at Operation Concern. Offers lesbian relationship therapy—this can include lovers, ex-lovers, family or friends. Low fee, sliding scale. MediCal accepted. 1853 Market St, SF. WA. Info: 626-7000 v/tty.
Bisexual Men's Group: focus on relationship & communication issues; positive feedback regarding life choices & experiences as a bisexual person. Info: Ron Fox, MA, MFCC 751-6714.
Therapy Group for Men involved in relationships that are difficult or not working out. Info: Kevin Miller, MS 826-8692.
Men's Group: wkly group on self-esteem & relationships for gay men: meet men in meaningful ways, explore issues, get objective feedback, solve problems. Wed 8-9:30 pm, fee. Info/free brochure: Adrian Bruce Tiller, MS 346-2399.
Gay Relationships Group for Men experiencing difficulty starting & developing romantic relationships. Practical group, with focus on making changes. Info: Kevin Miller, MS, MFCC 826-8692.
Women's Therapy Group explores work, parenting, sexuality, sexual identity, relationships, living in a male world, being alone. SL fee. Info: Margie Cohen LCSW, Stephanie Leonard MFCC 528-1731.
Home Counseling for Children of Lesbian/Gay Parents. Info: Monty Meyer, MS, MFCC; 824-5532.
Pre-Relationship Support Group for Men: wkly mtgs in SF for relationship-oriented men who want to connect with a life partner. Info/location: David Klein, MA (in Counseling), 343-8541.
Gay Men's Therapy Group: Retrieve & renegotiate your past, explore your family history & its impact on your life. Develop strategies to change old patterns preventing growth. Ongoing groups, Tues & Wed eves. Info: George Bilotta, PhD 586-7811.
Lesbian Therapy Groups: work in depth on your own issues, personal power & autonomy. Thurs, 7-9 pm, $20/session. SF location. Info: Matile Rothschild Poor, PhD, LCSW; 626-7109.
Lesbians Who Love Too Much: group to explore obsessive attractions to painful, unfulfilling relationships & what you can do to recognize, understand & change the way you love. Info: Marilyn Girard, MFCC 843-2998.
Couples Therapy Group for lesbians & gay men. Explore dynamics contributing to dissatisfaction in relationships, learn strategies to modify dysfunctional patterns, enhance relationship skills. SF location. Info: George Bilotta, PhD 586-7811.
Success Support Group for Gay Men who are having trouble achieving their goals. Think you're sabotaging your success? Get professional guidance; receive valuable support & feedback while exploring ways to overcome your blocks to success. 10-wk groups. Thurs 7-9 pm, $20/wk. Pre-group consultation (free) is required. Info: Bud Hinkle, MA 928-3848.
Gay Men in Our 40s & 50s: Challenge of Mid-life: explore the changes in our bodies, goals, values & work experiences that come with mid-life. SL, ins accepted. Support/therapy group led by Hal Slate, MA. Info: 832-1254.
Gay Men's Therapy: ongoing group to discuss quality-of-life issues: self-esteem, fear of intimacy, depression, codependency, AIDS anxiety, internalized homophobia. Professional, confidential & caring. Info: John Beeman, MA, MFCC 626-6196.
Lesbian Sex Workers: therapy group for lesbians working in the sex industry. Focus on issues of self-esteem, intimacy, relationships, money, health. Insurance accepted. Info: Leslie Halpern, LCSW; 863-7473.
Therapy Group for Lesbians ready to seriously commit to examining their difficulties with intimacy & to overcoming the effects of growing up in dysfunctional families. SF location. Info: Zona Gregory, MFCC; 552-9388.
Drama Therapy Group: deal with stress issues, increase spontaneity, communication skills, self-esteem in a creative, playful way. Ongoing, fee. Info: Judith 528-0533 or Joel 431-5818.
Eating Disorders Support Group at Marshall Hale Hospital: free, ongoing group for individuals, families & friends of people with problems of anorexia nervosa, bulimia & compulsive overeating. Supportive environment to share concerns & experiences, as well as education. Led by professional staff from the Eating Disorders Program. 1st & 3rd Thurs of each month, 7-8:30 pm, Conference Room A, Marshall Hale Memorial Hospital, 3773 Sacramento St, SF. Info: 666-7856.
Eating Disorders: ongoing group psychotherapy for women suffering with anorexia and/or bulemia. Thurs eves, SF location. Info: Pat Sax, PhD, LCSW 661-7158.
Grief Healing Empowerment Group for those experiencing pain & loss from the end of a relationship. Safe, supportive environment to grieve & get your feet back on the ground. 8-wk groups. Info: Ariah Keller, MA 482-5218. Limited to 8 people.
Support Group for Twins: explore how being a twin affects relationships; help separate, gain a clearer sense of one's own identity. Individual counseling also available. Led by Ariah Keller, MA (also a twin). Info: 482-5218.
Gay Men's Ongoing Therapy Group: members support each other (with professional guidance) in building self-esteem creating healthier relationships, overcoming personal isseus (such as loneliness, homophobia, emotional confusion). Limited to 8 people. Thurs 7:30-10 pm. Info/res: Dave Cooperberg, MA 431-3220, Pedro Rojas, MA 841-9198.
Gay Men's Ongoing Psychotherapy Group: meets Thurs eves, SF location. Led by Pasquale Calabrese, MS, MFCC & Peter Goetz, MS, MFCC. $30/session, SL available, insurance accepted. Info: 566-2666 or 227-5655.
Mediation & Creative Counseling: non-judgmental, non-adversarial way to solve differences. SL fee, no insurance. Info: Lynn Scott, LCSW 826-3081.
Men—Have You Abused Your Lover? Feeling ashamed, afraid or angry about having been violent with the man you love most? MOVE offers help for gay & bisexual men who batter. See Incest & Battery section for details.
Inhabiting Ourselves: movement therapy group for adults. Use emotions, memories & dreams to explore & develop body awareness, personal imagery, self-expression. Mon 5:30-7:30 pm. Info: Marsha 548-9599.
Movement & Drama Therapy for Children: role playing, storytelling, gestures, self-awareness. Mon, Tue, Wed 3:30-4:30 pm. Safe, supportive, small groups. Berkeley location. Info: Marsha 548-9599.
Deliberate Self-Injury Group: support group for women who are self-cutters. Safe, supportive environment to explore feelings, experiences. Members encouraged to talk about the purpose & function of self-cutting in their lives. Because this group is not appropriate for women who are suicidal, all members required to have an already established, ongoing individual psychotherapy relationship. Info: Joyce Smith, MFCC; or Peg Morris at 647-2547.

► YOUTH

Youth Group in the Avenues! It's true, there really are gays/bisexuals/lesbians under 21! Meet others at the Richmond Youth Rap,—Tues 6-7:30 pm, 3654 Balboa, SF. Info: Diane or Rik 668-3955.
Young Lesbians Rap Group: for women in their early 20s & younger. Fri, 5:30-7 pm. Pacific Ctr, 2712 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley. Info: 841-6224.
Under 21 Gay Men's open rap, Sat 1-4 pm at Pacific Ctr, Berk. Info: 841-6224.
Peninsula Gay/Lesbian Youth Group discussion/social, Sun at 2 pm. Fireside Room, University Lutheran Church, 1611 Stanford Ave, Palo Alto. Info: 856-1144, or write POB 60782, Palo Alto, CA. Group is not church-affiliated.
Slightly Younger Lesbians & Gays, a social/support/activity group for men & women under 25. Meets every Sunday, 1-3pm, San Jose location. Info: (408) 293-4529.
Under-21 Gay Men's Rap group meets at Pacific Ctr. Drop-in, 1-4 pm, 2712 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley. Info: 841-6224.
Gay Area Youth Switchboard: see Hotlines & Referrals.
Young Adults Task Force open to those 16-25. Fresno Gay Community Ctr, 606 E. Belmont, Fresno. Info: (209) 268-3541.
Young Lesbians: weekly support group for those 25 & under, Santa Cruz location. Info: Valerie (408)427-3862.
Peninsula Young Gay Men: support group for gay men under 23 who live in the Northern Peninsula. Info: 979-8864.
Join the GAY Group (Growing American Youth) group, open to gay men & lesbians 23 & under. Meets 2nd & 4th Fri of each month, 7 pm, Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church, 2253 Concord Blvd, Concord. Info: 827-2960.
"Jackson Street," weekly therapy group for lesbians & gays under 21. Work on issues: coming out, sexual identity, survival, relationships, AIDS anxiety & other health issues. "Jackson Street" was formed to provide a place for young people to talk, find support & feel comfortable exploring their sexuality. Facilitated by Ruth Hughes & Ron Henderson. 3-5 pm, Ctr for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson St, (bet Van Ness & Franklin) SF. Spons by the Sexual Minority Youth Program at the Ctr for Special Problems. Info: Ron or Ruth 558-4801.
California Runaway Hotline provides services to young people who need help, want someone to talk to, or want to send a message to their parents. See Hotlines & Referrals.
Lesbian/Gay Youth Project spons by the Ministry of Light (a non-judgemental ministry with the lesbian/gay community) meets first, second & third Thurs of every month, 6:30-7:30 pm drop-in, 7:30-9 pm group. Ministry of Light, 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, San Anselmo, 94960. Info: Chris or Paul 457-1115.
Bay Area Gay & Lesbian Youth group meets 6:30-8 pm, Community Living Room, 28 W 37th Ave, San Mateo. Info: 572-0535, ask for Jerry, Shelley or Wendy. A safe place for sexually diverse youth to meet in a supportive nonsexual environment. Discuss issues that affect you, meet others your own age. For youth ages 16-21.

Letters...

(continued from page 24)

traordinary. This is the source of the talk about brainwashing and cultism, and the source of the rage many volunteers feel when they learn the training has been theatrical manipulation that bears no relation to the private and business lives of Jim Geary and his cohorts. If people want to seek out fringe religions and quasi-therapies that's their business. But it's outrageous that Shanti should be funded to require volunteers to undergo indoctrination in "love" before they're allowed to work with AIDS patients.

While preaching "opening your heart in unconditional acceptance," Shanti in fact practices extremely rigid and judgmental control over volunteers. "Feelings" are in, but only a narrow range of feelings prescribed by Shanti: a zonked passivity, and a willingness to mimic hysteria and suspend criticism of the often bizarre behavior of Geary and his original core staff. Relevant training and experience are out: Geary has consistently turned down potential volunteers and staff better trained and more experienced than himself. There is a lot of emphasis on "feedback" (Shanti's word for criticism), but "feedback" is strictly one way. Shanti knows best. And there is a contradication at the heart of Shanti: while it preaches that counselors are trained to reflect PWAs' feelings, after the highly emotional trainings volunteers want PWAs to "open up" and share despair and heartbreak. Not surprisingly, the sight of Shanti staff or volunteers is enough to send many PWAs running the opposite direction. Shanti's methods are also anathema to the majority of mature volunteers, and thus greatly reduce the pool of people available to work with PWAs.

The idea of peer volunteers working with PWAs is still valid, and good for community morale as well as the City budget. None of us want even more psychiatrists making more money from AIDS. If Admiral Walker could rescue Reagan's AIDS Commission, a management expert (from outside the City's inbred and opportunistic AIDS industry) can rescue Shanti. But there has to be a realistic assessment and overhaul of the services Shanti provides. And the "training" needs to be reworked to be less manipulative and invasive, and to concentrate on the needs of PWAs rather than the co-dependency needs of volunteers and staff.

Sincerely yours,
Ken Martin

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By growing up in a dysfunctional family, we inherited ineffective and destructive patterns which we continue to replay in our daily lives. Becoming aware of the influence of these embedded feelings and patterns of the past will enhance our ability to be successful and energetic about life, and to feel good about ourselves and our relationships.
If you are interested in joining either the Tuesday evening group or the Wednesday evening group, OR if you are interested in individual or couples therapy, call for a free consultation.
George Bilotta, Ph.D. **(415) 586-7811**

THEATRE

BY GENE PRICE

Michelle E. Jordan

Dreamgirls

Not an easy musical to produce, *Dreamgirls* emerges triumphant on the stage of Palo Alto's TheatreWorks. While eschewing the sleek, hi-tech look of the Broadway original, the cumulative effect of this high-energy show is considerably greater than the mere sum of its parts.

Based on the meteoric career of The Supremes, the bare-bones plot follows the rise (and fall) of three young, black R&B singers. But *Dreamgirls* is really a parable on the creation, packaging, and marketing of a musical product to an ever-hungry public. It's a study of users and the used. It's not a pretty picture, but it reeks of the reality of the sixties.

From the moment the three young Dreamettes enter, wide-eyed with wonder at their first talent contest, the musical never slackens its hard driving pace. Director Anthony J. Haney has assembled a "dream" cast and topped it with two stars who could have held their own with the recent touring company.

Berkeley's Michell E. Jordan is Effie, lead singer of the trio, who is manipulated professionally and romantically by manager Curtis Taylor while he grooms the trio for their "big-time" debut. Micheal LeRoy Brown is the Machiavellian Curtis who creates the Dreamgirls, softening their sound so they can make that all-important crossover from black R&B to the white pop charts. Power and success is the name of Curtis' games, and if it calls for payola, he pays; if it means pitting one performer against another, he does; if it means replacing lead singer Effie in the act (and in his bed) with the prettier, more "salable" Deena, he renders the decision with the cold finality of a small claims court.

Stars Jordan and Brown, both fine actors and singers, create a tension seldom achieved on local stages. Jordan's first act closing number, "And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going" is a masterpiece of vocal characterization. Rejected and humiliated, she begins her plea softly and builds it to a soaring, all-powerful demand that she be loved. It's an earth shaker. Her second act solos, "I Am Changing," and "One Night Only" are also superbly delineated.

Most impressive, too, was Leon Jackson as James Thunder Early, a soul star who strings Dreamgirl Lorrell (Ajuana L. Harrison) along for ten years. Choreographer Jackson, who stepped into the role at the last moment, is not only a fine dancer and delightful comedian but a singer who creates a larger-than-life character with some exciting vocal dynamics. As Lorrell, Harrison showed considerable stage presence throughout but failed to make the most of her second act solo "Ain't No Party." In what should have been a very funny number, her timing was off and some of the lyrics were unintelligible against the music.

Lead Dreamgirl Deena (Robin Hudson), slight, pretty, vulnerable, and a perfect vocal foil for Effie in the first act, failed to project the sweet, warm sound and the personal charisma of the lead Dream in the second act. (Without Effie's vocal balance, the second act Dreams sounded a little shallow.) Hudson was reticent when she should have been effervescent. She should have descended that Las Vegas staircase head up, full of confidence — but watching her feet, she was off-beat with the music. In the *Vogue* fashion scene, she should have metamorphosed into a glamorous, commanding star. She was, on the contrary, a sweet little girl playing dress up.

C.C. White, Effie's brother and songwriter for the trio, was played with considerable charm by David Matthew Proctor. Portraying one of the few sympathetic roles in the musical, Proctor's warm singing voice offered a nice balance to the hard driving R&B arrangements.

Resident musical director Lita B. Libaek, one of TheatreWorks' major assets, managed to create a big Broadway pit band sound from her 9-piece ensemble.

Richard W. Battle's second-act costumes were a disappointment. They were appropriately tacky and drag-queen trashy in the first act, but when the Dreams hit the big time, their costumes should have reflected a higher level of taste and workmanship. They were distracting in their gaudy design, careless in execution. Most disappointing were the Dreamgirls' black, ill-fitting gowns for the musical's final scene. If there is one lasting visual impression of the touring company production, it is of the three Dreams clustered together, elegant and glamorous in shimmering white Grecian folds, glowing alabaster embodiments of American pop goddesses.

Those highly innovative, computerized light towers that created stage, backstage, and dressing room areas in the Broadway production have been replaced by TheatreWorks' set designer Paul Gilger with a clean turntable set, a spinning "platter" that can reveal onstage and offstage performances at the same time. Other set pieces are minimal: a handsomely designed dressing table for Effie's big scene, and a Las Vegas staircase, appropriately glitzy when lit from within, but betraying its construction when the lights were off.

For all its minor flaws this is the big musical of the season. It's about as good as they come. It was a daring gamble but a winning one. Pity this production can't be moved intact to San Francisco where it would brighten a currently dark theatre row.

Dreamgirls continues Sept. 1-3 and 9-10 at 8 p.m. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road. Call 329-2623.

Roxanna Augesen

Gods of Polk County

Bay Area playwright and critic Lee Brady has peopled her new play, *Gods of Polk County*, with a collection of down-home country folk whose seemingly mundane lives threaten at any moment to erupt from barely submerged jealousies, imagined wrongs, incestuous desires, familial boredom, and an excess of religious fundamentalism.

Most of the gods of Polk County are interrelated members of the prideful and decidedly eccentric Burridge family, and Polk County is indeed real, bordering Oklahoma to the west and a short crow's flight north of Texarkana where one of the less lucky Burridges is currently incarcerated.

Director Andrea Gordon has assembled a strong cast headed by Roxanna Augesen, Ronnie Dee Blair and Dennis McIntyre, who not only function in dual roles, but comprise the country western trio, Arkansas Light and Power. Their vocal embroidery of the play's six episodes include such country pieces as "Silver Threads and Golden Needles," "Lovesick Blues," "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry," and a lovely melody called "Someday I'll Get Over You."

The milieu of Brady's back country is firmly established in a lackadaisically paced first scene, the annual rattlesnake round up at the county fair grounds. Arkansas Light and Power kicks off the proceedings and Walter (McIntyre) lays down the round up rules, demonstrating how to snare a rattler with a forked stick and manipulate it into a gunny sack. An uppity female insists on entering the traditionally all-male sport and a cranky Walter is just as insistent upon maintaining the status quo.

From the fair grounds it's a short jaunt to Esta Lee's (Ellen Brooks) kitchen where she scans a letter inviting her to the family reunion. Her monologue reveals that she has no intention of attending — not after Cousin Howard humiliated her last year with a too-loud reference to the night they slept in the same bed. Esta Lee's attempt to explain the innocence of that night fully exposes her sexually repressed attraction for Cousin Howard. Nothing, we realize, would keep her away from that reunion. A deeper exploration of Esta Lee's neurosis might have provided Brooks with a zestier characterization.

Episode three takes us to Texarkana's federal penitentiary where Frankie (McIntyre) pleads with cousin Virgil (Blair) to pull some strings to get him out. Good old boy Virgil, willing but not too bright, calls the sentencing judge to plead for mercy. This funny monologue backfires, and when Virgil hangs up the phone, Frankie hangs up his hopes of ever seeing the hills of home again. (The genuine humor in the phone call itself was dissipated to some extent by Frankie's over-reacting in his jail cell.)

In a sensitively written and acted front porch dialogue 90-year-old Muzz (Pamela Marsh) and her 69-year-old son Lester (Ed Markmann) wait for the car that will drive them to the family reunion. Incisive and moving, the scene is a portrait of two old people whose only bond is a bored familiarity with its permissive recriminations. Muzz makes it clear she would rather stay home and avoid too many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Lester makes it clear that she will attend. Dispassionately spiteful, Muzz informs her son that during the night his mistress has been driven out of town and her home burned down, "possibly by some ladies of the church."

Brady's most indelible episode, "Polk County Medea," takes place on a Little Rock TV talk show where the guest personality is would-be country singer Sharon who faces a midnight execution for the murder of her two children. In a riveting performance, Augesen takes us through Sharon's halting recollections of a failed marriage and the awarding of her children to their father and his new wife. Building slowly, Augesen moves from injured inocence to a majestic madness as she re-enacts Medea's vengeance on an unfaithful husband. For all its melodrama, this disturbing scene is kept well in hand by Augesen's impressive talent.

Sister Gospel's (Jane Keller) revival tent is the scene of the one-year anniversary memorial service for Sport, Sister's profligate husband who was shot while fleeing the bed of another preacher's wife. Unforgiving of Sister for burying Sport in his pyjamas, Sport's mother Vi (Lauralee Westaway) sits apart from the "lesser" Burridges. Set against the approach of an electrical storm, the scene's meandering opening fails to build the tension that will prepare us for Sister Gospel's sudden appearance — in a flash of lightening — at the altar. The possessed Sister has seen a vision of Sport. She now confesses, almost incoherently, that having directed all of her spiritual love to Jesus, she had no earthly passion left for Sport. (Keller's frenetic recitation failed to make the logical connection between her vision and the realization of her failure as a wife. Potentially powerful, the scene needs re-thinking.)

Augesen, Blair (a delightfully understated comedian), Marsh, and Westaway were most

(continued on page 44)

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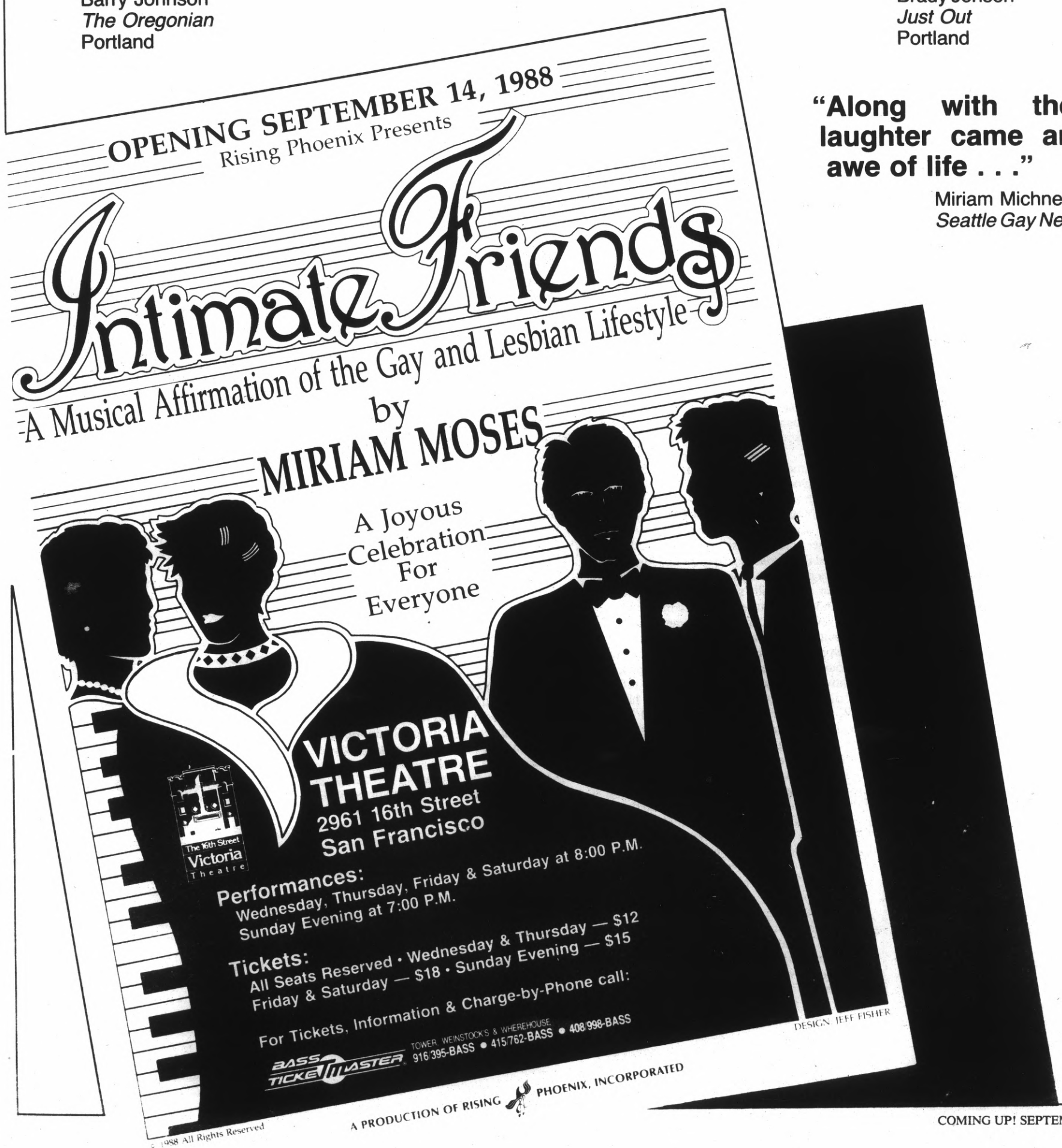

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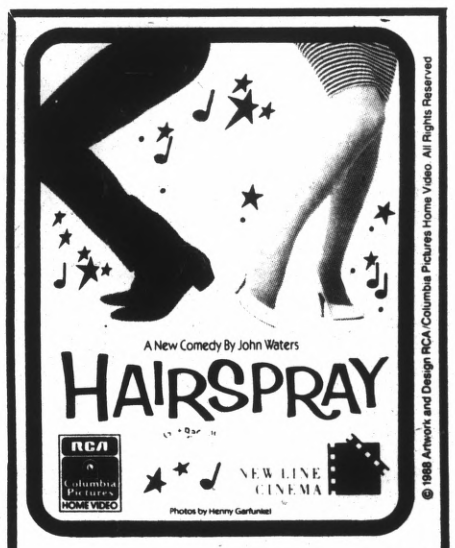

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(continued from page 42)

impressive. Eugene Craig's minimum but effective set pieces move us seamlessly from fair grounds to kitchen to revival tent. Sunnia Eastwood's costumes were right on the mark (Dennis McIntyre's red maroon plaid jacket and white shoes were perfect for any Polk County dress-up occasion.) Sound was by David Torgerson.

Gods of Polk County played through Aug. 28 at the Berkeley Jewish Community Center. Plans to restage it in San Francisco are under consideration.

Gypsy

When a company can come up with a performer who has the chutzpah to play Mama Rose to the hilt, that company is geared up for *Gypsy*. This practically perfect musical, the ultimate Cinderella story with hit songs tripping over each other, has seen three local productions this season. San Jose Civic Light Opera brought in Marcia Lewis to handle the star turn. City College cast Weslia Whitfield as the world's most irritating stage mother. (Whitfield gave us a sweeter Rose while proving she could belt it out with the best of them.)

But San Mateo's Peninsula Civic Light Opera saved the best for last: Alma Sayles as Mama Rose, is a tough, driving mother who forces her reluctant daughters into show business to satisfy her own insatiable craving for attention and success. Sayles is a wonder in the role. Tall, prepossessing, she has a stage presence that dares you to look away from her. Vocally, she's perfect for those sometimes brash, sometimes plaintive, always optimistic songs of Jule Styne and Stephen Sondheim.

From her first musical statement of intent, "Some People," Sayles establishes Rose's character in spades: those kids of hers are gonna be stars if it kills 'em. So Rose and manager Herbie (Allen Knight) drag Baby June and Baby Louise through every vaudeville house and through chorus after chorus of June and her newsboys singing "Let Me Entertain You."

Rose meanwhile is stringing Herbie along, offering occasional glimpses of her softer side through such fine ballads as "Small World" and "You'll Never Get Away from Me." Every setback, every minor disaster is just another notch in Rose's belt until finally she's forced to face facts: girls grow up. June elopes with a dancer. Teenage tomboy Louise has no talent. Vaudeville's dead. And the troupe is stranded in a burlesque house in Wichita.

Never doubting for a moment that Fate would step in, Mama Rose learns that the star stripper has been "pinched" for soliciting. Louise is gowned, gloved, coiffed, boaed, and shoved onstage to Mama's hateful refrain, "sing out, Louise." The rest is history. Wichita, Detroit, Philadelphia, and finally, Minsky's. Gypsy Rose Lee is a star. Mama Rose, having alienated everybody on the way up, is banned from backstage. But it takes more than a piece of paper to stop this mother.

Backstage in the darkened theatre it's "Rose's Turn." Mama Rose takes to the runway announcing herself to the world with "here she is boys, here's Rose." The pit band blares. Lights flash her name, bigger and bigger. Rose strides the runway flaying raw the layers of her own psyche. Everything's coming up roses — too late! It's a bitter, tragic declaration from someone who dared to challenge the gods of success and Sayles instills Rose's breakdown with very real compassion.

Annika Johnson was the adult June. Mollie Donahoo was the awkward Louise who discovers, as she is being shoved onstage for her first strip, that she is a pretty girl. Donahoo was especially moving in the "All I Need is the Girl" number as she watched Tulsa (talented dancer Rocky Duvall) practice his routine and imagined herself as his graceful partner.

Kristin Alleman was Tessie Tura, Pat Colgate was Mazeppa, and Nancy Field was Electra, and they brought down the house — to nobody's surprise — in the satirical strip, "You Gotta Have a Gimmick."

Director Hal Grant must be credited with some exceedingly polished performances from his large cast. Berle Davis was the choreographer, and Gregory Van Sudmeier's orchestra delivered the most exciting *Gypsy* score of the season.

Jim Bogan and Mary Jo Price

Photo by Irene Young

Two by Shepard

Theatre Telos is currently presenting a pair of early (mid-sixties) Sam Shepard plays. I would be hard pressed to tell you what they are about. Both are intriguing — in a frustrating way — but totally undisciplined. Bits and pieces of dramatic writing that don't quite jell into a whole.

Red Cross takes place in the middle of a forest in a cabin with two twin beds. That much is perfectly clear. In fact, I immediately thought to myself, "Aha, an early study for *Fool for Love*." No such luck.

One bed is occupied by Jim (John Bogan) who lies open-eyed in a state of near catatonia. Carol (Mary Jo Price) has abandoned her bed for the floor where she rocks herself to a recitation about a past skiing incident and a present throbbing in her head. Jim has his own problems. After several tense moments frantically massaging his groin area under the sheet (naturally we assume he is masturbating), he leaps ot of bed in a frenzied tribute to St. Vitus and advises us that he is nurturing a ten-year infestation of crabs. Jim and Carol assault each verbally — though neither seems to listen to the other — and Carol leaves.

Shortly thereafter the maid arrives to change the beds. And change the beds they do. By physically interchanging the beds it is determined that the maid is now required to change only the sheets on Jim's bed. (Don't think about this too closely, it doesn't work out.) The maid is actually Carol in maid's drag (though the roles were originally played by two women). The mystery deepens.

Further verbal assaults follow and some arcane reference to swimming leads Jim to mount the prone but fully dressed maid to teach her to swim. I have a vague recollection that they reached a climax in tandem but that may have been wishful thinking.

Icarus's Mother finds three men and two women picnicers amusing themselves with a series of loud belches while they await the Fourth of July fireworks. This one-act is even more complex and more confusing than *Red Cross*. The setting is idyllic; the relationships border on physical abuse. A nervous Pat (Sue Carr) is harrassed by bullies Bill (Fred Bald) and Howard (Ross Tandowsky). A nerdy female, Jill (Mary Jo Price) and a non-games-playing Frank (Micheal Kutavic) complete the quintet. Sue and Jill wander off to relieve themselves on the beach and straggle back wtih an improbable tale of being buzzed repeatedly by a jet pilot. Bill and Howard are surreptitiously attempting to send smoke signals with a barb-que grill and a table cloth. To whom? the jet pilot? And why? A detailed report of a jet crash is made before the crash actually happens. Frank launches into an extended and high pitched monologue that so affronted the hearing of those of us sitting down front that we collectively flinched. The fact that the actors succeeded in pushing the sound barrier to new limits did not actually increase my interest in this holiday outing.

Chris Scott directed. Sets were by Joe Soto.

Two by Sam Shepard continues at The Intersection for the Arts, 766 Valencia, Sept. 1-4, 8 p.m. Call 753-4474.

Photo by Irene Young

Miriam Moses: Creating a Musical Affirmation for Gay Men & Lesbians

BY SUSAN R. SKOLNICK

What if the tables were turned and the world were gay? What if homosexuality was the norm and heterosexuals were in the minority? What if theater shows and movies focused on the lives and loves of gay men and lesbians, giving only a brief glimpse of heterosexual life with an occasional secondary story line about "that straight couple next door"?

Intimate Friends, which opens at San Francisco's Victoria Theatre on September 14, is a show that turns those tables as it celebrates the diversity of gay and lesbian life, and attempts to inform and entertain audiences with an honest, insightful and often humorous view of what it means to be gay.

The 24-song musical revue is a collection of love songs and satirical pieces which pokes fun at the idiosyncrasies of gays and lesbians, and songs which identify and explore the many different kinds of relationships homosexuals have. Miriam Moses, the show's composer and writer, explains that *Intimate Friends* is an affirmation of gays and lesbians — an affirmation of a variety of different kinds of emotion and of different kinds of people.

"Homosexuality does not define anything other than homosexuality. It doesn't say we're all Democrats, it doesn't say we support the same candidates or believe in the same issues. So it's affirmation only in the sense that we exist, and these are 24 situations in which we exist. Some of them are very funny, some of them are positively affirming, some of them are satirical, and others are very serious," she explains.

As a musical revue, *Intimate Friends* is a collection of songs around a central theme, rather than a book-based musical which has a story line. Miriam explains that she chose the revue format because it provides an opportunity to show a variety of different things. It creates more freedom and flexibility, because the cast of three men and three women are able to play more than one character.

"If I had done a story, a book musical, with a series of characters who were maintaining identities throughout, I would only have as many characters as I have in the show," Miriam explains. "In the revue format, everyone plays different roles and that gives us 24 times six different people. That's a lot of different kinds of people that we can show.

"The characters in the show, each of them, actually do experience a catharsis — they just don't experience it in the same way that they would if they were going through a specific experience that I had laid out for them like in a book musical," she says. "But the way the show is set up, there are six individuals who are playing a variety of different characters. And which of those individuals does which song in the show, creates subliminal catharsis on the part of the audience. So, in effect, there's change going on; people at the end of the show are not the same as they were before they were changed through that experience."

Intimate Friends comes to San Francisco after successful and extended runs in Seattle and Portland. The response to the show, from both gay and straight audiences, was phenomenal and went far beyond what anyone had expected. Now, for its San Francisco run, the show has been completely recast with Bay Area actors, because "that way, we have the benefit of feelings, rhythms and input from people who are living here," Miriam explains.

"We held open audition calls and looked at and listened to everyone. We didn't care whether people were straight or gay," Miriam says. "The show is completely gender-balanced and sexual preference-balanced and they all inter-operate with each other. It's not separatist at all, and that's very important.

"This is a show that, among its many messages, is one that shows the love we can have for each other — men and women — and the power and strength that that can give us. There's strength in polarity; but I think we are at a point in our existence in the world as a homosexual group, where the real issues that would give us the ability to live however we want, require that we put aside, in some ways, that polarization and segregation," she explains.

Intimate Friends will be playing an open-ended run in San Francisco, "because after our experience in Seattle and Portland with the show going on for a year, we want to keep it open for as long as people still want to see it," Miriam says. After its San Francisco run, the show will move on to other cities.

"Heterosexuals can go to the theatre or the movies any day of the week and see something that's a first class piece of work that makes all kinds of fun of heterosexual relationships," Miriam adds. " They can laugh themselves silly, but we usually have to do that vicariously — we don't often get it on our own. This just turns the tables. For two hours out of your life, what if straight people were the minority? We

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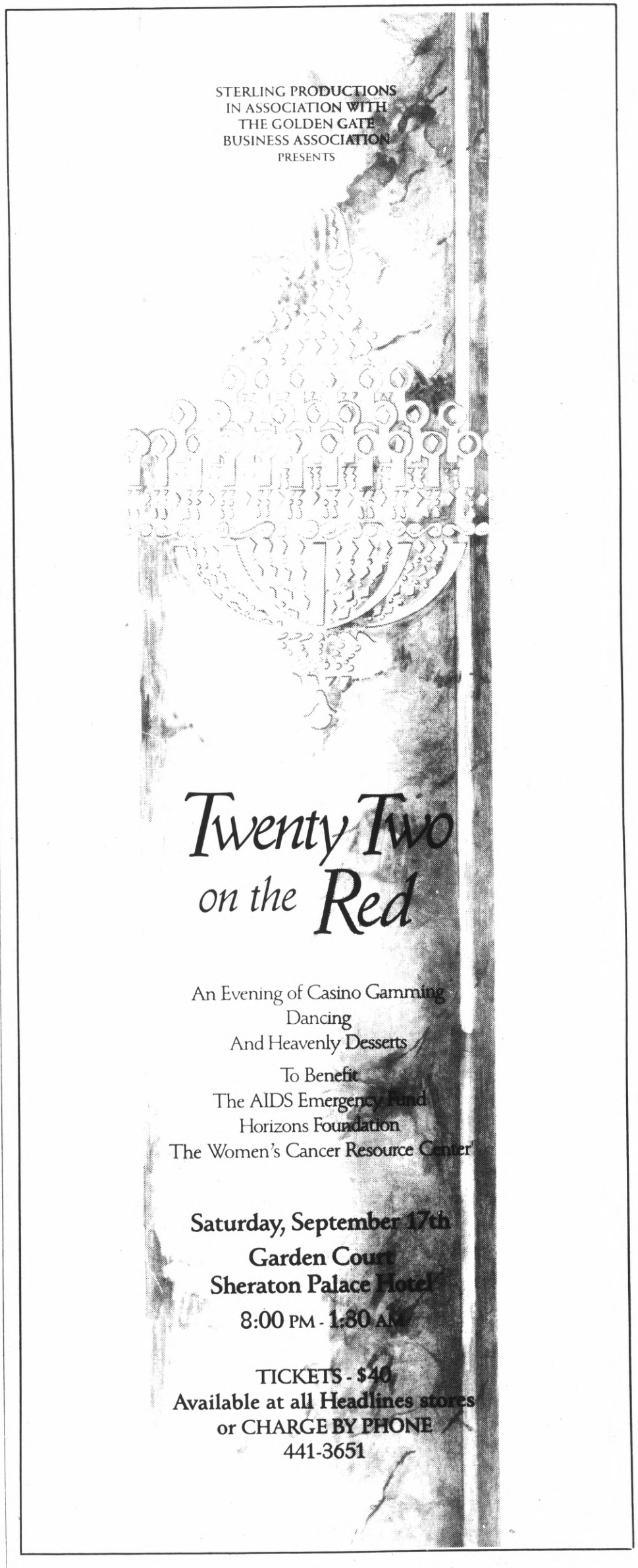
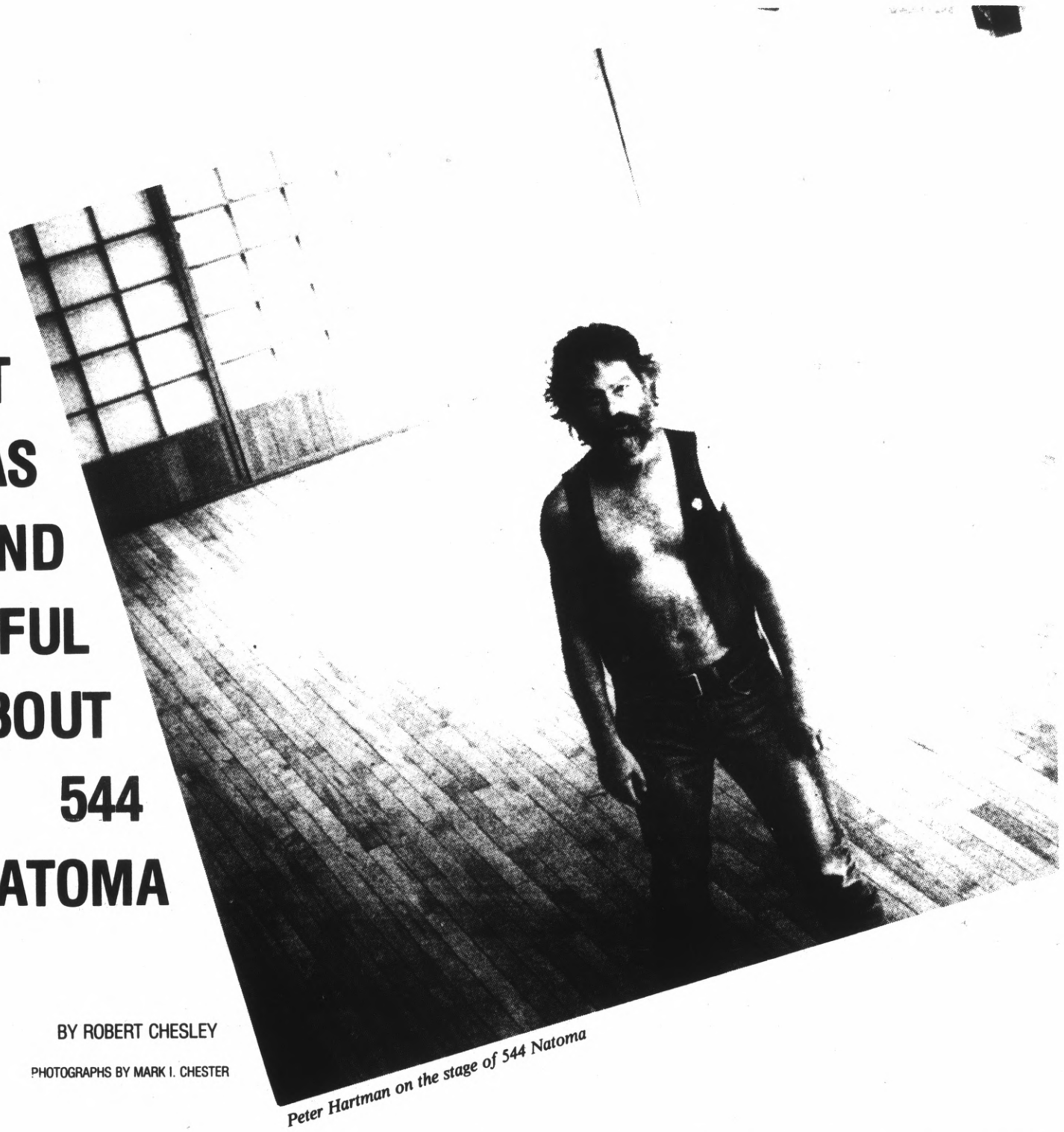


WHAT WAS RIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL ABOUT 544 NATOMA

BY ROBERT CHESLEY

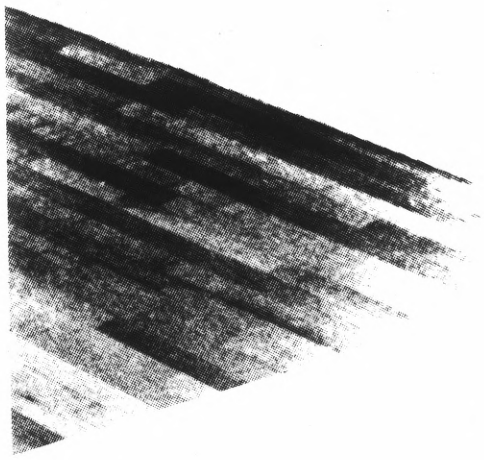
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK I. CHESTER



Peter Hartman on the stage of 544 Natoma

544 Natoma closed its doors in October 1983, after an evening of performances and celebration, starting on the 6th, that lasted until after 3:00 a.m. the next morning. Peter Hartman, the founder and spirit of the "performance gallery," had decided to move up to newly purchased property in the Russian River area; he had glorious, unconvincing ideas for producing a summer arts festival underneath the haunted redwoods. He left behind him a financial shambles, accusations and counteraccusations of mismanagement and deceit, ugly stories of drug abuse, quite a few enemies (but, really, more people who had just given up on him), and an extraordinary legacy. 544 Natoma had been during its three-year, unlikely existence, the wonderfully rich and utterly astonishing flowering of San Francisco's South-of-Market leather culture; Peter Hartman had set very high standards For what gay

Lorenzo Glover (l) and David Baker (r) in Ken Wilkinson's all male adaptation of "The Maids" by Genet



art can and must be — stand-ards that have rarely if ever even been approached since. The floor, the grand piano with one broken leg, the shoji screens, the simple wooden benches,the lighting and sound equipment, the office furniture and a massive chaos of papers and tapes were all carted up to the River. So was much of the art, where it was for the most part destroyed by dampness, negligence, and the hideous mishaps which characterized anything to do with Peter. The losses are tragic. And on July 4th of this year Peter died, at the age of 48. By that time, however, many people — perhaps most of the people associated with him during the 544 Natoma days — had already counted Peter as lost.

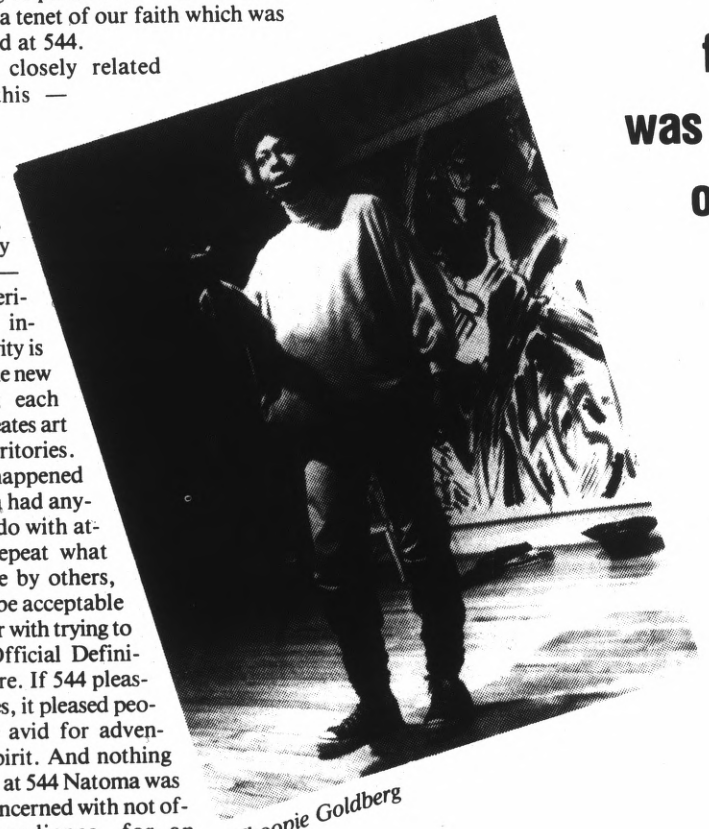
But it is what Peter created that is of transcendent importance and for which he must be honored: his gifts to us, the ways in which his spirit touched us and touches us still, the territories which he opened up for all of us. How can we define and hold onto what was right and beautiful about a human life now ended? How can we define and hold onto what was right and beautiful about a human creation now lost? What is it about 544 Natoma that we who were involved in it, as artists and as audiences, cherish? What remains? What is our faith?

It was presentation, partly — starting with its location: Natoma Street could only be in San Francisco, could only be South of Market. And when one entered 544 for a performance, there was an undeniable magic, perhaps created by the dim and dramatic lighting, the art on the walls, the extravagance of a floral display, or the music: one anticipated an event of significance, an adventure or even a sacred rite. One had been invited into the home of art.

It was the range of activities and events — and the amazing roster of people who created art there. Can any one person claim to have attended even most of the events at 544? There was theater; dance; many types of music — ancient, classical, ethnic, folk, avante-garde, jazz, rock; there was performance art; erotic bondage; poetry and readings of other literature; and a wide variety of exhibits. And it was also the source of this extraordinary range and Roster: Peter's genius for perceiving and supporting genuine creativity, his enthusiasm for the creator *in each of us* as being of paramount human value. This is a tenet of our faith which was realized at 544.

And, closely related to this — perhaps a basic aspect, and certainly another tenet — it was the experimental spirit: individual creativity is the source of the new and different; each person who creates art charts new territories. Nothing that happened at 544 Natoma had anything at all to do with attempting to repeat what had been done by others, with trying to be acceptable or respected, or with trying to conform to Official Definitions of Culture. If 544 pleased its audiences, it pleased people who were avid for adventures of the spirit. And nothing that happened at 544 Natoma was the least bit concerned with not offending its audience, for an endeavor which seeks to avoid offense is not art: it is merely dishonesty, and there's enough of that around already.

John Ponyman in "Sunsets," by Cal Yeomans



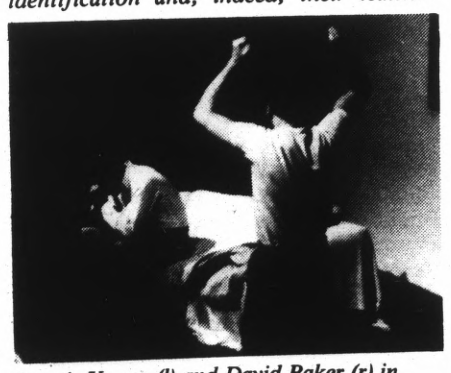
Whoopie Goldberg

"When one entered 544 for a performance there was an undeniable magic... one anticipated an event of significance, an adventure or even a sacred rite."

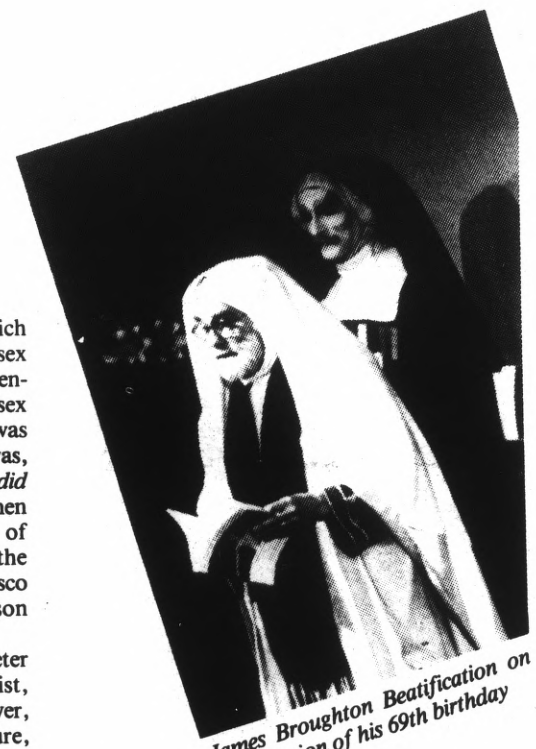
Finally, it was gay. This is perhaps the most basic thing about 544 Natoma which was right and beautiful. It was gay in the most comprehensive sense, as offering crucial options for *all people (so goes the faith). 544 was the creation of people who saw their gay-identification and, indeed, their leather-identification as wholeness* in a society which is profoundly and lethally dishonest about sex and the body. No, not everything that happened at 544 was exclusively concerned with sex and the body — far from it! But the space was *inclusive* of sexual and bodily concerns; it was, again, a place of *wholeness*. And yes, Peter *did* manage to offend some of his supporters when he showed Mark Chester's photographs of hard cocks and, later, when he opened the space to the first meetings of the San Francisco Jacks. But to Peter there was no valid reason to exclude the sexual.

The extraordinary and passionate Peter Hartman, wild man, composer, pianist, theater director, producer, creator, destroyer, ranter, facilitiator, avatar of world culture, perennial boy genius, imp, brat, pig, onanist, mystic, Buddhist, entertainer, host, cook, visionary, tragic mess, (can it be printed?) speed freak, enthusiast, friend and ex-friend of many, and walking proof of the inefficacy of the Bach Flower Remedies, is dead. What he created was as right and as beautiful as the music of Mozart.

Silvana Nova as Maria Callas in "Kittens from Hell"

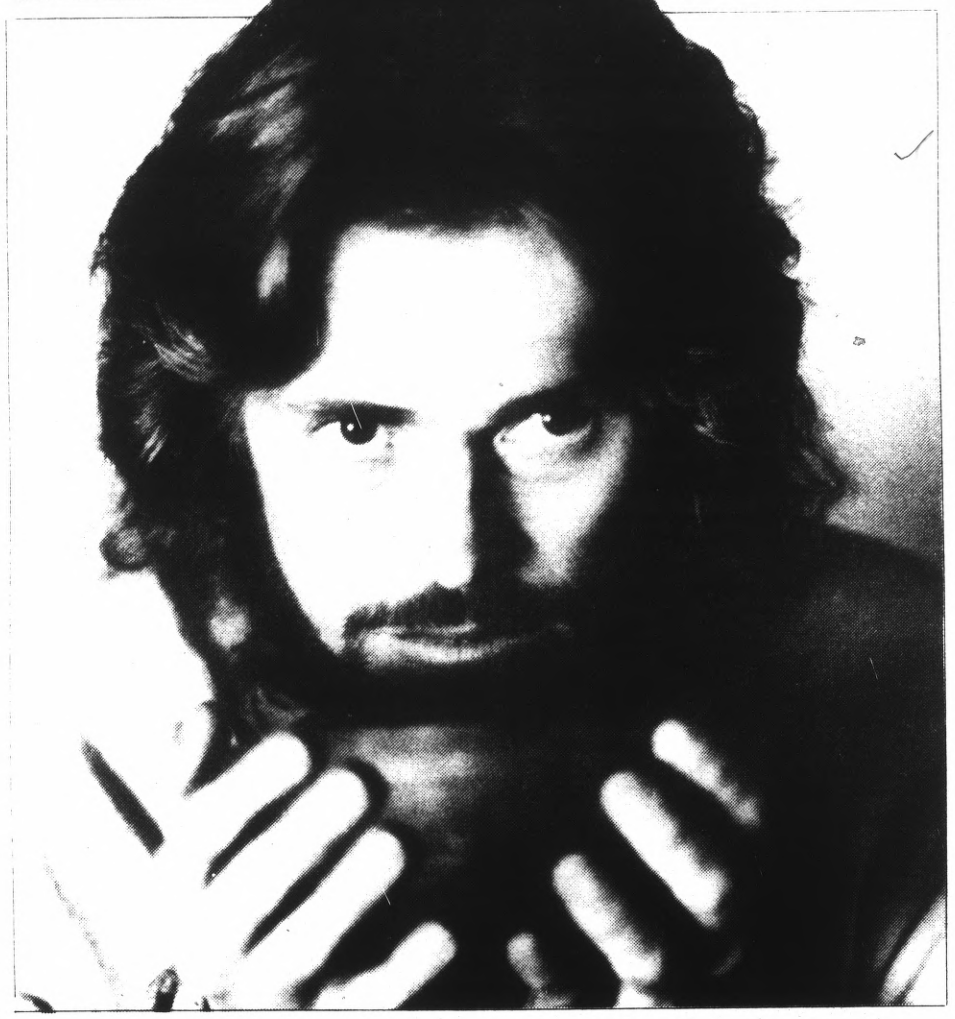


Dennis Young (l) and David Baker (r) in C.D. Arnold's "Delivery"



James Broughton Beatification on the occasion of his 69th birthday

FILM



The Lost Attempt at Christ

REVIEWED BY JACK FERTIG
(a.k.a. Sister Boom Boom)

Opening Night — No doubt you've heard all about what a zoo it was. I found it a feast of contradictions. People who presumably pray that God "Forgive us our tresspasses as we forgive...." were carrying signs that read "Boycott Universal Pictures Forever." My own favorite protest banner said "We object to Christ being made the object of *somebody else's* fantasy" (my emphasis). One queen was there in the same long black dress, clown-white make up, and nautilus eyelashes he's been wearing for the last eight years. (No, not moi!) He remarked that the Fundies were just there to get attention.

A group with rosaries firmly clutched was reading beads and ejaculating with maniacal fervor. One was holding a crucifix with a rubber band doing the work of three nails. "Look!" Came a voice from the line, "Jesus is wearing a rubber! Isn't that *extra* special?!" (O.K., *That* was moi.)

"Did Kazantzakis write this with any concern for Christ or his own soul?" shouted a fundie. An answer came quickly, read from the author's eloquent introduction to *The Last Temptation of Christ*: "While setting down this confession of the anguish and the great hope of mankind I was so moved that my eyes filled with tears, I had never felt the blood of Christ fall drop by drop into my heart with so much sweetness, so much pain.... I am certain that every free man who reads this book, so filled as it is with love, will more than ever before, better than ever before, love Christ."

So why are the fundies protesting and not Madelaine Murray O'Hare? Is it really over fifteen seconds of woo-woo-woo?

The basic theme of the *The Last Temptation of Christ* is that by questioning one's faith one develops deeper convictions and stronger faith. Satan offers complacency as the last temptation. We all know the equation of "faith" with complacent superstition. Kazantzakis seeks to lead us away from such innocence of intellect to a road of questions, doubts, and examination. True faith is self-critical and explorative, open to growth.

The preacher with a comic book messiah, a gospel of self-satisfaction, and a voracious collection plate is liable to be fucked here more than Magdalene ever might have been.

Like most books this one loses a lot in the film. Five hundred pages of densely vivid prose hardly has a chance. In comparison Paul Schrader's screenplay — actually a good attempt — is a mere outline. Of course detailed characterizations, rich prose, and many important scenes are missing from the film. If you read the book you may be severely disappointed. If you didn't you could easily get lost.

One has a feeling that Scorsese told his cast to act like a bunch of regular guys that people could identify with. Their accents show the Roman and Jewish roots of Christianity, albeit via New York. The scenes are short and choppy so that none of the characters is much developed. Barbara Hershey as Mary Magdalene gives the role as much as Scorsese and the script allow, but she's upstaged by her tattoos. Mother Mary is all but lost. Jesus' second wife and her sister get better exposure, but not so much that you'd strain to find them in the credits.

Most of the supporting cast blends into monotonous cliques of devoted disciples or pompous Sadducees. Harvey Keitel as Judas is almost likeable as the one most loyal and the only real individual of the twelve disciples. Another of the reasons he stands out so well is his hair color. You may remember from Sunday School that Judas was a redhead. With all the kissing and snuggling these guys did you'd think they could find a decent colorist. Jesus also looks like the Sunday School's Our-Lord-of-the-Flemish-Masters. Willem Dafoe's blue eys bulged like Charles Pierce's Bette Davis and his jaw was held in a perpetual semi-grimace. I wondered if we should be celebrating his birthday two months earlier and he was posing for the pumpkin. Clearly Scorsese wanted a sustained manic quality and he got it. He also got a very white man there to save the darker races.

The scenery and sets were gorgeously used to convey a world millenia and continents away. The locals who worked as extras fit in beautifully, completing a visual feast. Alas the dark semitic faces and thick black curls that unvaryingly filled the background only made sun-bleached-brunette Jesus and Lucy-hennaed Judas look more out of place. If you can ignore the meshugas in the foreground, the backgrounds are worth the price of a bargain matinee. Actually the meshugas in the foregrond also provide some handsome visuals, but what sunscreen was Jesus wearing to keep his much exposed Dutch complexion so white and fair in the desert? An angel who looks and sounds very British joins our fairhaired messiah in holding the racist implication.

Of course we have demons and miracles, but with one tiny exception they are staged with techniques that are embarrassingly dated and glaringly artificial.

Martin Scorsese deserves credit for bringing themes of religious self-examination to the screen. Messrs. Falwell, Wildmon, etc. deserve thanks from Mr. Scorsese for publicizing this film's attempted virtues so far beyond its accomplished flaws. Send them all thank you cards, but read the book.

Tiny and Ruby: Hell Divin' Women

REVIEWED BY HONEY LEE COTTRELL

Music and the movies have always been an effective means of shutting out the overbearing, unpleasant and mundane realities of the present. If life, including the gay life, has your head and heart in a tight squeeze — escape today. Go to the movies: Join *Tiny and Ruby: Hell Divin' Women* (what a reputation to live up to) for a romp through the gay old days of the 1930s and '40s. The video story of their lives plays this month at the York Theater, September 8-11, on a double feature with *The International Sweethearts of Rhythm*, the documentary that was the impetus for the close up of Tiny Davis, trumpet player extraordinaire, and her lover Ruby.

Tiny David and Ruby Lucas, now in their late 70s, are musicians who played the peak of their careers during the Big Band swing era. It's not an era that was especially generous to professional women, black people in general, and black lesbians in particular. Tiny and Ruby are all of the above and wear it with cool abandon. They project a lusty appetite for life that underscores their mastery of volatile gay material with the subtle style so popular in that period.

The lyrics of blues and swing music are ripe with sexual innuendo. When Bessie Smith sings about her sweet jelly roll and what she wants to do with it, we get the picture. When Tiny, responding to the question about what makes Ruby, her partner for 42 years, so special, grins and says, "Well, I can't tell all of that," it's clear from the expression on her face and the intonation of her words that she has not forgotten. Tiny's sexual vitality is loud, rebellious and unashamed, an inspiration in these times of political courage and private terror. How does she do it? Tiny and Ruby say a lot but they can't say it all. This task is left to the filmmakers, Greta Schiller and Andrea Weiss.

In *Hell Divin' Women*, Schiller and Weiss edited together pieces of a puzzle that cover over 50 years of livin and lovin.' There is live footage of dancers at Kansas City clubs and long lines at the Apollo Theater in New York where big names like Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holliday, and Count Basie headlined. There is remarkable home movie footage from a gay bar that Tiny and Ruby owned. Another favorite scene is a jam session in the family living room featuring Tiny and her 7-year-old grandson in a trumpet duet.

Poet Cheryl Clark does some fancy translating in the narration of this video. She uses her voice to interpret Tiny and Ruby's language and history. She announces "the girls" with relish and spells out their variety: "All them white, light, bright, brown, yellow and tan girls." It's a hell of a ride the hell divin' women take us on. Like Ruby says, "It wasn't as open as it is now, but people did what they wanted to do anyway."

Greta Schiller and Andrea Weiss have collaborated on three films: *Before Stonewall, The International Sweethearts of Rhythm* and most recently, *Tiny and Ruby*. Each of these films circles around a particularly glowing moment from American history looking for signs of gay life. Schiller and Weiss have a detective's determination for exposing the subversive character of ordinary men and women. Just as *Stonewall* located the beginning of gay culture in the armed forces during and after WWII, their second film uncovers the success of an integrated all-women's band performing within an intensely segregated American scene.

The International Sweethearts of Rhythm Band is about women, especially black women who wanted a piece of the pie. Their all woman, mostly black ensemble grew out of a school band in Mississippi during the Depression. The stereotype of that period is that most people were too weak to do anything but stand in bread lines. Not the Sweethearts. These young women left their homes, some of which didn't have electricity, climbed into big buses and toured the East Coast, Midwest, and deep South. The stories they tell about navigating through the maze of racial prejudice without bringing the heat down upon themselves is hairraising at times and only funny in retrospect. Eventually, their band played so well that Louis Armstrong and Count Basie would come and stand in the wings at the Apollo Theater to see them, the proof that they

weren't the "novelty" band that so many male musicians put them down for.

The post-Stonewall generation has a tendency to believe that life began in the '60s with the civil rights movement, feminism and gay liberation. It's as if nothing existed before except ignorance and helpless victims being crushed by the giant wheels of capitalism. The *International Sweethearts of Rhythm* were there to prove that idea wrong. The Sweethearts, however, except for Tiny Davis, are noticeably silent on the question of homosexuality. Tiny was one of their stars and obviously the heart of the band. She's a tiny diamond of a lesbian, and it was a brilliant move to go back and have her and Ruby speak in their own film. Like Tiny says, "If you want to do something, if you got the power, excuse me, you can always do it."

Tiny and Ruby: Hell Diving Women *and* The International Sweethearts of Rhythm, *The York Theater, 2789 24th St., September 8, 9, and 10th, 11th. Both available on video from Jezebel Productions, PO Box 1348 NY NY 10011 (but don't miss the opportunity to see the superior impression on the big screen at the York!)*

Clean and Sober

REVIEWED BY MARSHALL B. REFFIELD

Now that everybody who's anybody is taking twelve steps to a wonderful new clean and sober lifestyle there's even a new hit movie that shows what it's like to get clean and sober. Sort of.

Despite some necessary dramatic license, *Clean and Sober* is a compelling film, well written and well acted. My main criticisms are that the circumstances around alcoholism and addiction are rarely as dramatic as those in the film, and active drunks and addicts are liable to say, "I'm not that bad, so I'm not one of those." But drama is obviously necessary for a film. At meetings one is told to identify with the feelings if one can't connect with the events.

The feelings are well portrayed by Michael Keaton. His performance, his presence, his eyebrows are all eerily reminiscent of Jack Nicholson. Could they be closely related? No matter. As Darryl Poynter, an addict bottoming out, he plays an arrogant macho creep who learns a few things about humility and vulnerability while trying to get somewhere with a woman who's living with another guy. Without the recovery angle the romantic triangle would simply be a familiar cliché. Kathy Baker as the steelworker, Charly Standers, who's torn between recovery (Darryl) and addiction (Lenny) plays a fine rollercoaster of feelings. She plays the tension of her early recovery, fear of letting go, and rare sublime moments of relaxed confidence as if she's actually been there.

There are scenes that anyone in recovery would recognize as patently absurd. Recoverers are dreadful nitpickers and may enjoy playing "What's Wrong With This Picture." Any "problems" in the script are clearly necessary for drama and pacing. Ms. Baker and Mr. Keaton carry a strong sense of authenticity that overcomes any problems in the writing. The direction by Glenn Caron, his fine setting of scenes and moods is clearly sensitive to the licenses taken and polishes the "flaws" so that only an alcoholic/addict would notice. Any problems in Tod Caroll's script come out of the necessity of putting the complex moods and situations of early recovery into a workable, attractive story. Addicts often get caught up looking for perfect answers for problems and never find solutions that work. Like a good recovery program, Caroll finds solutions that work even if they aren't perfect. Kudos to all, including producer Ron Howard, formerly of "Happy Days." He's put together an ensemble that knows just what to do with alcoholic drama.

Stereotypes of Jewish Women In Film

REVIEWED BY SKYE MORRISON

The 8th Jewish Film Festival was a raving success this year. Large crowd turnouts for the films — 24 in all — gave exposure to independent films tremendously diverse in form and content. Three seminars stimulated dialogue and contemplation on subjects quite new and in some cases controversial for the Jewish community. This year's seminar topics were: "Myths and Stereotypes of Jewish Women in Film," "Making Jewish Films," and "Images of Palestinians in Israeli Cinema."

The seminar which attracted the largest crowd — close to 400 people — was on the subject concerning myths and stereotypes of Jewish women in film. As Janis Plotkin, one of the organizers of the festival said, "This seminar was particularly exciting because the issue has never been discussed before."

The audience appeared to be a pretty diverse group — as young and old, male and female, lesbian and heterosexual, could be seen scattered throughout the theater. There was a feeling of expectation — a feeling that something new was about to happen. Strangers looked at each other and smiled, aware of a connection.

The panel, moderated by Jane Rubin, featured four guest speakers of extremely diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Patricia Erens, Chicago-based film critic, is the author of *Sexual Strategems: The World of Women in film* And of *The Jew in American Cinema*. Erens lent an academic flavor to the panel, giving the audience a brief history on images of Jewish women in film from the 1920s to modern times.

Ricky Shereover-Marcuse, social theorist and activist, is the author of *Emancipation and Consciousness* and runs what she terms "Unlearning Racism Workshops" in the United States, Europe and Israel. In her own very succinct and witty style she spoke on the nature of stereotypes and oppression.

Lynn Littman, Hollywood-based, is an award-winning filmmaker. She began her lecture by apologizing to the audience for not having as much knowledge on this subject as the preceding speakers. Although she herself appeared unsure of why she was there, her sense of humor and willingness to let the audience share in her confusion compensated somewhat for her lack of expertise.

Naomi Newman, actor and founding director of A Traveling Jewish Theater, captivated the audience with a combination of theater, dialogue and powerful analysis. Newman treated us to a short excerpt from her one-woman show, *Snaketalk: Urgent Messages From The Mother*, which moved the audience from penetrating silence to rousing applause. In that small excerpt Newman seemed to capture the essence of the patriarchy's abuse of female power throughout the ages.

Both Newman and Eren spent time discussing specific images of Jewish women in film. They agreed that the most consistent images on the screen are those of the sacrificing/suffocating mother, the Jewish American Princess (JAP) and the ugly duckling ("who doesn't necessarily turn into a swan"). "These have really believed you are the exception to the Jewish woman stereotype?"

Applause and laughter rang out through the theater. Obviously she had touched a nerve.

Then she asked, "How many of you have tried to be the exception to the stereotype?"

The audience was with her.

For the first time these issues have been voiced in public. We don't like the Hollywood images — we don't like the JAP jokes. Our dislike, our mistrust and our inherent understanding of the hostility this trend represents brought this group together. So how do we influence how we as a people and as a sex are represented on film?

Erens addressed this issue, saying the answer is to raise money to find people to write, direct and produce commercial films that tell a different kind of story. She said, "Only in situations where women have been involved in the creation and production do we see anything other than these stereotypes of the ugly duckling, the suffocating mother and the Jewish American Princess."

Photo by Tom Wachs

Lynne Littman (left) and Ricky Sherover-Marcuse

negative images of Jewish women are clearly as anti-women as they are anti-Semitic," Eren said.

"Film and television are a two-way channel. They reflect the society that exists and they influence the people in the audience. Only when a film links with our psyche is it going to catch on — a film cannot make its mark unless the audience is going to buy the myth," she said.

Newman discussed the origins of these stereotypes and said they are caricatures of types that exist within our culture.

"What these images have in common is that they are very powerful and assertive and they get what they want. And I think in our culture that's an unforgivable sin," she said.

However, these two images are not equally despised. For although the mother-image is the butt of mockery, the JAP is a target for incredible hostility and aggression. "The JAP has refused the domestic role and men cannot deal with women who don't cherish that role," she said.

So what is the purpose of these stereotpyes? Shereover-Marcuse says we can't talk about stereotypes unless we talk about oppression. And, she explains, "Oppression is the systematic mistreatment — institutionalized and normalized, everyday reality mistreatment — of individuals and groups who are on the down-side of the social power and balance."

The function of these stereotypes — or lies — is to give the powerful in society a reason to continue the mistreatment of the targeted group. "The stereotypes give us reasons, justifications, explanations, for why "those people" — whoever "those people" are — are getting whatever treatment they are," she said.

The oppression is internalized, as the targeted group becomes conditioned to believe in the lies, she said. And to illustrate her point she asked the audience, "How many of you

Littman seemed in large part to blame Jewish men for the idealization of wispy blondes as the image of the true American/Hollywood beauty. "For the most part the executives in Hollywood are very short, young, Jewish men whose fantasies are of willowy blondes. And they put those fantasies in the movies," she said.

She seemed to think that if other "types" of women are cast in leading roles it might lead to a greater appreciation of female beauty in all its forms. "I don't understand why there hasn't been any overt expressions of outrage on the part of alternative-thinking women about this one very narrow image of women in Hollywood," she said.

But Littman seemed confused about what is desirable in a woman. As she herself admitted, she's bought into many of these negative stereotypes. She voiced a question to the audience which, hopefully, she'll take back with her to Hollywood: "What part of ourselves as Jewish women do we want to see on film?"

"If we are going to change the system at all we have to have the willingness to know what we want. We have to have the willingness to make a scene going after it — the willingness to be aggressive, impolite, loud, unladylike, and combative if necessary,

"I want to give up certain aspects of the stereotype — like the martyrdom of the mother. And I want to give up the materialism and the distorted self-involvement of the JAP. But I don't want to give up their power and their will to get what they want."

After the panelists spoke there was suppos-

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BAY WOMEN'S MUSIC

BY NOELLE HANRAHAN

Photo by Irene Young

Judy Fjell

THE PRESENT (August 6 at La Pena) Billed as a techno roots band, I had no idea what to expect, but the all-woman bill intrigued me. Five dollars later I was yelling above the dancing mob that this was a really exciting band. New to the club scene, they still drew a healthy crowd of 150 people.

The band members met a few years ago in an acoustic marimba ensemble. The five women were drawn together by common interests in percussion and electronics, and they ended up building their own electronic marimbas. *The Present* are solid percussionists and create lush four part harmonies. Their fast and wildly expressive multi-rhythmic beats are great to dance to, drawing on Zimbabwe marimba traditions for much of their rhythms. It's also refreshing to see a multi-cultural band.

The Present played three long sets of all original compositions and provided the audience with lyric sheets. The sound was very good — intense but not overpowering. For their shows you will not need ear plugs to hear the lyrics or enjoy the music. Given time and exposure and a more solid bass line, this band could be one of the hottest dance bands in the East Bay.

THE BLAZING REDHEADS (August 4 at the Great American Music Hall) Easy listening KBLX jazz meets light salsa. The *Redheads* put together a fluid and interesting mix of influences. As a seven piece band they can cover territory that is unreachable by smaller ensembles.

The outstanding trio of Michelle Goerlitz, Danielle Dowers and Judy Graboyes share the duties on congas, percussion and timbales. Each song the *Redheads* play features and gives expression to an instrument highlighting some good solos.

The scene deserves mention. The *Redheads*, regulars to the Mission District dance scene and gay/lesbian community events, draw an interesting mix of crowds who blend well together. The dance floor was never empty, and that is as strong a testimony to their popularity as any.

My only criticism is the the night was fairly evenly paced with no dramatic, explosive moments.

k.d. lang AND THE RECLINES (July 27 at the Fillmore) On the sheer weight of her interpretative powers alone, everyone should just move on over and let this woman have the number one spot on the country charts. At her command is a voice and delivery that defies anything I have ever witnessed. k.d. could well be the second coming of Patsy Cline, albeit a 1980s version, as she carves out a style that is uniquely her own. She sings rock with a punk sensibility and a country soul.

k.d. took the stage with a sexy, butch sailor boy square cut loose fitting suit, and switched to a cowgirl skirt and shirt adorned with farm animal pins with no-frills low cut boots midshow. Her absolutely transcendent stage persona combines Elvis' sexy allure, Janis Joplin's intensity and Julie Andrew's sincerity. At one point she seemed taken aback by the devotion expressed by the fans. Cupping a hand over her eyes to get a better look at the crowd of adoring lesbians, she cooed, "Aw, come on, get out of here."

A comment in closing: I wonder how 800 lesbians knew about the k.d. lang show. This event was a testimony to the power of communication on the lesbian grape vine.

JUDY FJELL AND THE UNBEATABLE HEARTS (July 22 at Freight and Salvage) Approximately one year ago Judy Fjell did a concert with an early version of her band *The Unbeatable Hearts*. This concert has become firmly entrenched on my list of the ten best live shows that I have ever attended. This woman has the potential to stir up quite a storm.

The July concert, on the other hand, was good, but not spectacular. Judy's usual charisma and charming stage presence was supplanted by a more nervous persona. Something about the band was also out of synch. They did not perform well during the entire first set, probably due to a combination of factors, including the pressure of playing an album release concert. Crystal Reeves on vocals and violin was hesitant and timid. I have seen Crystal really shine, but recently her performances have been less risk-taking. And it was distracting and unnerving to have Judy's guitar frequently break strings and be unable to hold a tune for more than a few songs. I also kept thinking that Judy had overdone her outfit. She wore the same outfit at the gig as on the album cover. It looks great on the album cover, but it appeared out of place at the down home Freight and Salvage. It was just another element that distracted from the casual energy that Judy's live performances thrive on.

By the seventh song the sound mix had improved to the point where Nina Gerber's guitar was audible, and thank God. Nina Gerber is the best, and it would have been torture to have muddy sound the whole night.

The second set gelled much more fluidly. The band came together and Nina added her sweet guitar solos to the two best songs of the night. "Air, Earth, and Water" was a dramatic piece of varying intensities that echoed the feeling of a thunderstorm. It rollicked and rolled with emotion. As the tune was carrying itself along, I wondered why this great song did not make it on to the album. The other terrific song in this set was "No Way Out of This One." It was quite simply very well done.

Be sure to catch Judy the next time she performs. Her shows are always enjoyable and sometimes brilliant.

LATE NIGHT WOMEN'S HARD ROCK SCENE: *The She Devils* at the Oasis (August 14) still growl out great tunes for free at the midnight shows. *Industrial Rain Forest* (August 15) at the Oasis was moody, melodic, punk-influenced, spiritually and ecologically based. These four women are a band to watch out for! They play an indigeonous beat fueled by Slade's great drumming and lead singer Lupe's dominating and inspired vocals and lead guitar. Sachiko (August 7) at the Starry Plough was a screeching Japanese folk rock/punk guitarist and vocalist. Her influences are the Velvet Underground and Dylan.

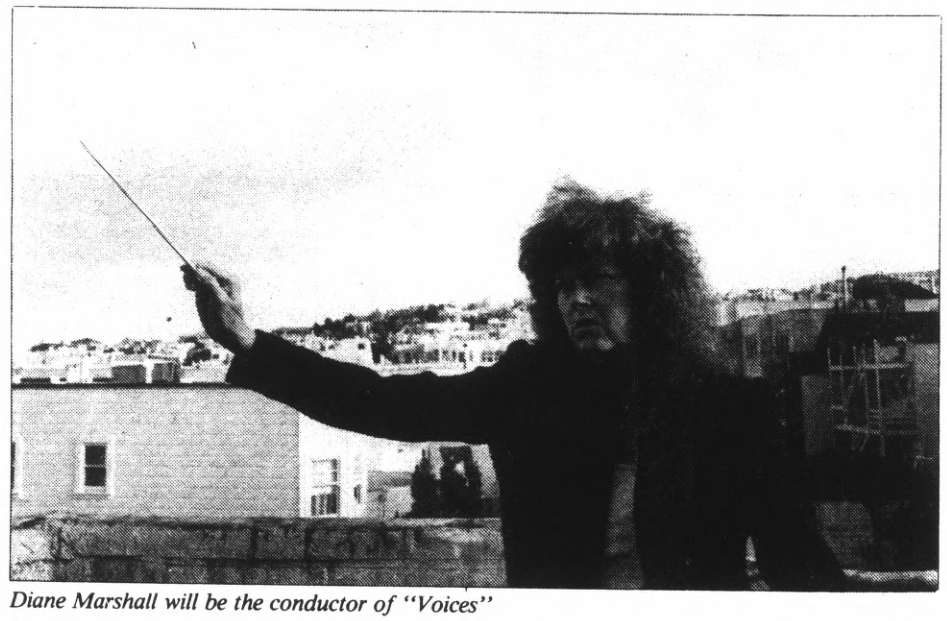
Every Wednesday night there's Female Trouble at the Nightbreak on Haight in San Francisco. This is a woman's rock and roll scene. Organizers Nancy Kravitz and Shez encourage you to come out and break free from disco bondage. You will never again have to bitch, bitch, bitch about paying a fortune at clubs and never being able to hear rock and roll. The music is spun by Cathy Cohn, KUSF dj and booker for the I-Beam Monday nights. The cover charge is $2-3 and the party lasts from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. The music features such artists as Nina Hagen, Patti Smith, and Siouxsie and the Banshees. In addition to the hard-edged sound, Female Trouble features live acts. On the first Wednesday of each month all-women rockers-about-town perform. The first show this month features *Industrial Rain Forest* (see above).

As organizer Nancy Kravitz comments: "Girls can be trouble, and that is right when the fun starts."

NEWS: The New York-based *Diane Ponzio Trio*, last seen in thh Bay Area in September 1987 at the Artemis Cafe were named as one of the best unsigned bands in America by *Musician Magazine* in June. The winners will be announced in the September issue... Holly Near has signed a book contract with William Morrow for her autobiography... Olivia Records announces the 15th anniversary celebration at Carnegie Hall and the Waldorf Astoria to be held November 25, 1988... Nancy Vogl, Olivia Records' recording artist, has received a grant/scholarship to study in Spain for a year beginning September 1989.

SHOWS TO SEE: Mimi Fox at Yoshi's September 8, celebrating the release of her debut album; Joan Jett, September 18 at the Fillmore in San Francisco; Dianne Davidson at Larry Blake's in Berkeley on the 11th and at the Great American Music Hall in San Francisco on the 18th; The Judds at Concord Pavillion on September 18th; and Ilene Weiss, September 29 at Freight & Salvage, Berkeley.

New Lesbian Choral Group Forming



Diane Marshall will be the conductor of "Voices"

The new voices heard on the San Francisco music scene this winter will be the lesbian choral ensemble "Voices," currently in the process of auditioning singers and developing a feminist repetoire for their debut next February.

Several women who have sung in various choruses in the Bay Area began meeting weekly last January to map out a structure for a lesbian ensemble.

Some of the plan has already been executed. Several months ago "Voices" became a sponsored project of the SF Women's Building, and Diane Marshall was hired as conductor.

"The goals of the chorus will be to choose music that speaks to women and lesbians, with attention paid to the song as a musical idiom of language. The songs will be arranged and composed by women, much of it long hidden — it will be very different from the sacred choral tradition," says Marshall, who was assistant director of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra chorus before coming to San Francisco.

While traditionally the conductor chooses which music will be performed, the singers in "Voices" will decide by consensus. Although the chorus is not fully assembled and the program not yet developed, Marshall says it will present two basic concerts, one with the theme "love" the other "spirit in flight."

Marshall feels the lesbian chorus will be a valuable contribution to both gay and straight arts communities. "It gives the gay community an arts outlook and lets the broader community know that we are interested in promoting the arts and trying to build a culture that represents our way of life."

The chorus is looking for women "who are committed to musical excellence who have a lot of choral experience," Marshall says. Auditions will be held September 10 and 11. For information call 648-8590.

—Christina Smith

LIVING AGAINST THE GRAIN: MIMI FOX

BY NOELLE HANRAHAN

Mimi Fox has just released her debut album "Against the Grain" on Catero Records. Born and raised in the Flatbush and Flushing areas of New York City, she has made the Bay Area her home for the past nine years.

As a jazz musician and a Jewish woman, Mimi Fox has become one of the most innovative and evocative guitarists on the jazz music scene today. *Coming Up!* spoke with her recently about her musical development, and what it has meant to her to be part of such a rich Bay Area Women's music community.

(Coming Up!) How would you describe yourself?

(Fox) God, well I am a double Virgo, compulsive, very dedicated, committed, devoted, irreverent, and very sweet but a little bit obnoxious sometimes.

Was there ever any question in your own mind whether you would be a musician?

Never from the minute my mother got me a little battered guitar when I was ten. I stopped playing baseball immediately. I just played my guitar for hours. I would spend six or seven hours playing every day.

When did you begin to identify as a musician?

I left home when I was seventeen and went on the road right away, working with singers and in duos for many years playing a lot of popular music. I got real serious about it when I was 20.

How did you end up going on the road at 17?

I was living with my father at the time and I said, "Dad I want to drop out of high school. I hate it." I already knew I was a lesbian and it was a bad scene, and I was bored out of my mind. He said, "If you can get a job, I'll sign the papers and you can drop out, but I want you to get something you are going to enjoy."

So I called up the New Haven Women's Liberation rock band (one of the first self-identified feminist bands). I was a pretty good player, and bold. They said "We're sorry Mimi but you are just too young." It was the law at the time that you had to be 21 just to go into the clubs. That was my dilemma. When I finally got a job with a top 40 band I had to lie about my age. I was playing anything I could get my hands on just to get out there and play. I played everything.

As a 17-year-old lesbian/feminist working musician in New Haven, Connecticut how did you come to find a community of women musicians?

That was a long search. It is part of what led me to California. I had a very hard time finding women who were really serious and good players. At that time the scene was nothing like the mecca that the Bay Area represents. It really wasn't until I went to the Michigan Women's Music Festival that I discovered the national scene. I met Robin Flower there, and she encouraged me to move to the Bay Area. I was in my mid-twenties and it was my dream to have a really good women's jazz band.

In what ways has your lesbian identity made you more vulnerable and alternately more strong?

It has taught me that who I am is very valuable, and I can be who I am in this world and I can survive. I survived a lot of shit in my life growing up. I knew I was a lesbian since I was six years old. It gave me a sense of my own autonomy and a sense of my own inner strength that is very deep and that is unbreakable. So when I have a lot of shit that happens, when some dude tries to take a guitar part away from me, ain't no one going to take my guitar parts away from me. And it's a good thing, because I don't sing.

Photo by Jill Posener

The hard part is being visible in the straight community. For instance, going into clubs with my partner and having men hit on me — that is very vulnerable and hard. Sometimes I feel like I have to be a real hard-ass to have men keep their distance. Also, just being a lesbian in the world, as part of an oppressed group, a group that is basically seen as invisible at best and at worst scorned and hated — that takes its toll. Even though we are living in a liberal mecca, I can't tell you how many times I have been hassled in San Francisco and in Berkeley for just being who I am. That is going to affect your music and every part of your life.

Do you have a peer group of women jazz musicians who influence you? It's been my impression that there are not a lot of women jazz instrumentalists.

There are very few women who have done jazz guitar, maybe four I can think of. And we are talking about since the beginning of jazz guitar in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

Who are they?

Mary Osborne, Monette Sudler, Emily Remler. There are not many women instrumentalists in general and that will affect jazz specifically. But there are more pianists — Joanne Brackeen, Jessica Williams — than there used to be. Locally I play with Julie Homi and Janet Small, great piano players. Other than that, Barbara Borden is a good drummer, but there are not that many good players.

But it is changing a lot; it is a slow process. I have noticed that younger women are having more confidence. The change is directly related to the women's movement. That's the main influence — women have more confidence and see themselves in roles other than just being singers.

Do you think women jazz musicians are getting respect?

I think it's mixed. It's partly a question of being visible. It takes a long time in the jazz world to get noticed. Jazz in general is not treated with a hell of a lot of respect, understanding, or appreciation. One reviewer wrote that I was a fine eclectic Oakland-based jazz guitarist and that I would break out of obscurity if the new album was heard. That term — "obscurity" — always irked me. I don't think I have been any more obscure than a lot of fine jazz musicians. Because jazz just doesn't get the acclaim. I can play gigs with a rock group on a Saturday night and come away with $500 and I can sweat and play four sets of the best music I have ever played in my life and take home $75 at a jazz club.

Of course, it is harder for women. Everything we do we have to be twice as good, and it takes us five times as long to get recognized and appreciated. It shouldn't be that way, but it is. I have been trying to work in different communities. For instance, when I first finished four cuts of the new album I sent them to Windham Hill and they were very interested, but I had to laugh when I got the final rejection letter. They said, "Please send us more material in the future, but we'll have to pass for now because the material is too aggressive."

What do you think of the tendency of women singer/ instrumentalists to lose their instrumental voice as their careers continue?

I do think it is a way of losing your voice because instruments are a form of expression for a person.

Do you think that is a reflection of the fact that —

— that men take over everything? Yeah!

I heard the analysis that studio recording is an art unto itself, and so on albums artists are often supplanted by studio musicians.

That's true, when a producer wants a different sound. I have been on both sides of this. I can't tell you how many times people have called me to clean up guitar parts. The producer may decide they want to save money, and get someone to just do it quickly.

Take Bonnie Raitt for example. She is a good slide guitar player who after her first couple of albums has all backup players. In her case she is a more than a good enough guitar player. I think that there is truth to what you are saying. But I also think that men have a tendency to want to deny women everything but their stereotypical place as the chick singer.

How have all the women artists who have gathered in the Bay Area influenced each other? Given that this is an especially rich area for artists, especially those who identify with the women's music community.

I think there have been some wonderful benefits. Picture this: I have been on stage with Robin Flower, Linda Tillery, Rhiannon, Casselbury and Dupreee, and Mary Watkins. I have played gigs with with such a diverse group of musicians. I think it is wonderful, because people bring a lot with them, and I have learned so much from everything I have ever played. For all of us it has been great. If you have a strength or a weakness, you can really get your butt kicked on something. A drawback is that sometimes the audiences are so loving that in a way that they are missing a critical musical ear.

What kind of jazz do you play?

I mix tradition in what I do. I don't play a really heavy emphasis on the old stuff because my feeling is that Charlie Parker, Louis Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie already did that and they did it great. Why do I need to do it again. I would rather take modern work and songs of my generation and interpret them.

Having roots and a deep respect and understanding for tradition is important, because if it wasn't for them I would not be playing. And also the great women singers, even though that was all that was open to them, were phenomenal musicians. All those women — Bessie Smith, Big Mama Thornton, Ida Cox — I would be nothing if it weren't for them.

Who are your contemporaries?

Bruce Forman, and John Coltrane. There are some pop people I like — Stevie Wonder and Paul Simon. I love good music.

How did your album happen conceptually and physically?

I really wanted to put out my own original material and I reached a point where it was time. For me it's kind of like having a baby, that's what my record is. It felt like it was a deep rooted organic knowing that this had to happen. The first thing I did was call up Robin Flower. She said, "You bet — you're overdue." I decided to raise the money. It was very scary, because again as a woman it was a lot

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Photo by Jill Posener

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for me to put myself out and ask people for money. I am working class. And I have always prided myself on being able to take care of myself, and I don't ask anyone for money. It was real hard, it brought up a lot of issues for me. I just dealt with each thing along the way and just tried to keep in mind the vision of the record.

You did a very good album on a very small amount of money. How much did the master tape cost?

Four thousand dollars.

What would allow you to do another album?

I have tons of new material. But I am going to see how this record does and how my touring goes, and from there I will have a step-ping stone. I am going to do a whole new tape of just acoustic guitar work and send that around. I will keep knocking on those doors, I know everyone now who could possibly help me. And I will just see what happens. Or I could fundraise again. But I really don't want to do that, because I am not into borrowing.

Do financial constraints affect your art?

They would have to, because in America artists are not treated well. The one time I had the least constraints was when I was back in Connecticut and I had a CETA grant. I had a year where I practiced and played and gave free clinics. Now I teach, play gigs, and do studio work. That pays the bills. But if I was making all my money from playing what I love and doing concerts, that would free up a lot more time. I make all my money from music.

How long have you been able to do that?

By the time I was twenty I decided to completely stop all of my part-time work. Even if I had to work in a cocktail lounge in a Chinese restaurant, which I did once. I played whatever I had to play because I was demanding of myself, that I make all of my money from music.

Now I don't have to advertise for students; word has gotten around. Gigs come in as they come in, but I don't have to take gigs that I don't like. It's gotten better. But I would still teach a lot less and that would free me up creatively.

I've noticed that there are women artists who make a commitment to their art and survive as whole artists, and that there are women who we don't hear about who are broken by the oppression. Have you seen this in your experience?

My mother is a classic example of some-one who had a lot of talent. She got a full scholarship at Rutgers when she was fifteen, and she speaks seven languages. I have just watched her piss it away all of her life. She is a first generation American. Her parents came from Russia and were very poor. She just did not have the confidence, and she also did not have the second big wave of feminism that I grew up with. And she is also a straight woman, to her chagrin at times.

Michelle Schocked is a really good example of the people you just don't hear about.

Who is she?

She's a folk singer who was homeless for a period of time. This is a person who we would normally never hear about except for the amazing fact that an independent producer made a tape of her music on a Sony pro-walkman and sold it to Polygram Records. Her second album was just released and she is very visible now.

She says that she isn't anyone special. She says she had been committed to a mental institution by her mother. It gave me the sense that there are a lot of women like that out there.

I was locked up in mental institutions, too. And believe me, I saw a lot of people broken by the system.

How long ago was that?

Between fourteen and sixteen. I went through some really hard years. I think, again, that being a lesbian has given me a certain strength. I have seen a lot of people broken. That is the way of this world. We know we could talk on and on about all of the women, writers, poets, musicians and artists. And it is very sad, and I don't know. It is quite a truism that there are a lot of people broken by it.

I want to remember that they are there. Because I think that they need to be recognized, because if we don't recognize them it's not going to change.

That's very true.

What is your dream or vision for your perfect musical group or setting?

I'm real excited about my album release concert at Yoshi's because this is one of my ideal bands to work with. In the future I would like to work with a sax player, and either work with Rhiannon or work with Laurie Antonioli who is a wonderful jazz singer in San Francisco. I have a vision of a group of great players doing a lot of original material, an eclectic mix.

The jazz I do borrows from so many things. People come up to me at shows and they say things to me like, "Mimi, I could have sworn that I heard Chet Atkins in that set." And I say, "Maybe you did." Or, "I could have sworn I heard a Russian balalaika player in the background," and I say, "Maybe you did."

I like all different kinds of music so much. I would like a quartet with guitar, sax, bass and drums. Or maybe a quintet with a piano, and have a singer sometimes, because I write a lot of songs with words. I have played with some of the best musicians out here. Now I have to get my band off of the ground. It's time for me now to do my own thing.

Mimi Fox will be holding her album release concert at Yoshi's in Oakland on September 8th. The lineup will feature Rhiannon, Curtis Ohlson, Darol Anger, Julie Homi.

The She Devils

BY MARYHOPE TOBIN

My heart starts pumping
My fist starts pumping
Total abandon
— Patti Smith

With Frances Byrne on vocals and guitar, Kate Aragon on bass and vocals and Cathy Curphey on drums, the *She Devils* have been playing clubs in San Francisco and Los Angeles for over a year, gaining recognition and showing no signs of slowing down.

Although they're not exactly sure how long they've known each other — Kate accuses Frances of making it longer each time someone asks — they do agree they've been friends and musicians together since at least 1981. Between the three of them, they had played in at least eight different bands — Kate and Frances in San Francisco, Cathy in Santa Cruz — before forming the *She Devils* in mid-1987. "For me it was awful," Frances recalls, "(the other bands) sounded ridiculous, weird, we just didn't go together... like somebody turned on a chainsaw." Forming the *She Devils* was more like three compatible musicians coming together than consciously forming an all-women's band. Of course, there is the obvious advantage that "when we sweat in our rehearsal space it doesn't stink as much," jokes Frances, but on the other hand, they all have horror stories of sound checks when all three band members are premenstrual.

The three women are very close friends, and sometimes spending time together outside of rehearsals and performances can put a strain on their relationship. Kate explains: "We've known each other for a long time (so) we don't have to talk about being sick of each other. We just take space from each other when we have to."

When Frances was a little girl, she wanted to be just like the *Beatles* because "they had long hair and looked like girls, and all the girls liked them." The other members of the *She Devils* claim influences from that era such as *The Velvet Underground*, *The Who* and *The Rolling Stones*. But the influences most evident in their music are the women. Like Patti Smith, Chrissy Hynde and Siouxsie Sioux, the *She Devils*' music is rock 'n' roll, "power pop" with an edge. It's music you can dance to and music you can fuck to. Frances and Kate both have strong, tough voices, and each instrument can be clearly heard, bass throbbing, drums banging and guitar moaning.

"Serious with a smirk" is how the *She Devils* describe their original work. "We like to take things and kind of make them maybe not so serious, even though they could be pretty serious subjects," says songwriter Kate. Frances, the group's other composer, adds that Cathy's life provides occasional inspiration: "(She) will come in all riled up about something and we'll have to write a song about it..." Protest music? "Yeah, mostly emotional protest, though, not political." Except when they've got their periods. "Then everything is dead serious!" What are you laughing at? What are you looking at? What do you mean it's in G?

On stage, the *She Devils* are hot. They play tight, fast sets, performing both their original work and covers, including Patti Smith's "Pumping (my heart)." It's still in their show, and they do a kick-ass job, not too fast, not too slow, and just as sexy as the original: you can hear the urgency of the song in Kate's voice as well as in Frances' guitar.

Visually, they're just as hot as the music they play. Frances explains that their choice of outfits is very simple: "We're not trendy but we really don't own anything but black clothes." Whatever the reason, these women made me forget my usually snotty attitude toward bands dressed all in black; in fact, it's hard not to sound like a groupie. Contrary to Cathy's belief that "it doesn't really matter what we're wearing, we're still dorks anyway," (Dorks? "Yeah, d-o-r-k. Got that?") the *She Devils* are three very good-looking women, on stage and off.

And they do have groupies. "Enemies, too," adds Frances. "And some who switch back and forth." With the exception of Female Trouble ("where the girls go to rock and roll," Wednesday nights at the Nightbreak), they play mixed clubs all over San Francisco. "Dogs, cats, the whole thing," Cathy deadpans. "Bulls, pigs, they're all there." No one hassles them, but fans, usually men, do come backstage, and are put to work carrying equipment. But, says Cathy, "they try to carry your equipment, they bump into a chair, break a drum head and then you don't want to see their face anymore." Frances and Kate don't think it's that bad, but they do admit that if there's trouble, "we send them to Cathy and she takes care of them."

Kate claims that they're a rock and a lesbian band, "we're in it for both," but Cathy adds that "we're not like Meg what's-her-name or Holly..." They feel San Francisco is a pretty easy town to play regardless of sexual orientation, and they aren't trying to project themselves as a lesbian band. They want to be as accessible as possible, but on the other hand, they play what they want to play. "We're not saying let's play like this because everyone's gonna like this or this is gonna get us on the radio," Cathy explains. "We just play what we like to play and we try to be a little bit versatile."

"Volatile," interjects Kate.

Total abandon.

Photo by Stan Maletic

(Left to right) Kate Aragon, Frances Byrne and Cathy Curphey are "She Devils"

CABARET

BY GENE PRICE

Charles Pierce

An era has come to a close. Thirty-five years after Charles Pierce first began impersonating Hollywood's glamour girls, he's ringing down the curtain on an act that's packed clubs and theatres (including Carnegie Hall) from coast to coast (and probably including Tiajuana). Of his long-threatened retirement from club work he says, "I don't want to overstay. Life is a drag, you know... then you become one."

But Pierce was never just a drag act. His wit dazzled and his flair for comic wizardry left audiences weak as he exposed the career and sexual peccadilloes of his legendary ladies. Nobody was safe from the Pierce treatment. Not Jeanette MacDonald, Mae West, K. Hepburn, Bette Davis, Tallulah Bankhead, Barbara Stanwyck, Gloria Swanson, Crawford or Dietrich. Not Evita. Not even Eleanor Roosevelt. And especially not Joan Collins, the reigning bitch queen who falls special victim to his scalpel.

In olden days Pierce worked in a tuxedo with a few props. (It wasn't exactly healthy to be caught in a dress, even if you were working in a club — especially one of *those* clubs.) But the act evolved, and by the time he was ensconced in the Tenderloin's Gilded Cage, he was in full Jeanette MacDonald drag as he soared over the audience (endangering life and limb) in his flower bedecked swing.

Throughout the years I've also caught Pierce at Ann's 440, at the Purple Onion, at Bimbo's, and at The Plush Room. Most of those clubs have bit the dust. Pierce is just getting his second wind. Now in the middle of his farewell club appearance, he's at the peak of his form.

He flounces on stage in a blond wig ("Is this *too* Barbara Sinatra?") and tries to flap the unflappable Joan Edgar at the piano. He pauses to assess the audience, insults a few close friends and mounting the piano where he crosses and uncrosses his legs, he dispenses a score of choice one-liners. "The only virgin male you're likely to find in San Francisco is an ugly third-grader."

Blackout. Seconds later he's back, coiffed, furred, and sequined as Joan Collins. Announcing modestly that she can't sing, act, or dance, Ms. Collins does what she does best — walks around and poses. She does dispense a tidbit or two about life with the Carringtons. "Dinner's very proper, of course. Forks on the left Knives in the back." Sex with Mr. Carrington, she confides, was like one of those rides at Disneyland, "hard to get in... doesn't last long... and when it's over you want to throw up."

In one delightfully abandoned sequence Pierce dons a red velvet gown and matching turban to relive brief moments from the silver screen lives of the turban queens: Maris Montez, Gloria Swanson, Marlene Dietrich (doing her gypsy bit in *Golden Earrings*) and just for good measure, Maria Ouspenskaya.

He did Hepburn in her Golden Pond period, clutching some anachronistic calla lilies, and sang Hepburn's big number as Chanel in the musical *Coco*. It's a touching number and he did it beautifully. Earlier, lamenting the condition of her dry and dusty hair, Hepburn remarks that she hopes her hairdresser's body washes ashore on Fire Island and is licked to death by toy poodles.

Now he's gone... and back again. It's Bette Davis in her *All About Eve* gown and it's bedlam time. It's cocktails at Bette's and Tallulah is there along with Barbara Stanwyck and Billie Jean King, who is tending bar. You think queens are vicious? Acid would melt in these ladies' mouths. Between frantic gasps at a cigarette, Bette reports that she saw Shelly Winters on a street corner in a blue and white dress. "A man came along and stuck a letter in her mouth." (Pause. Drag on cigarette.)

Photo by Stan Maletic

"And she *ate* it!" Then Bette goes into her famous story about driving Tallulah to Palm Springs and having to make a rest stop along the way. While relieving herself among the cacti Tallaluh gets bitten by a rattler. But there's no way to clean *that* story up!

Kirk Frederick, listed as program coordinator, was responsible for those magically immediate costume and wig changes. Musical conductor Joan Edgar somehow managed to keep one step ahead of Pierce, not an easy task considering his proclivity for charging off on some surrealistic tangent at a moment's notice.

The truly original Charles Pierce plays the Venetian Room through Sept. 4. Shows at 9:30 nightly, two shows Fri. and Sat., 9 and 11. Call 772-5163.

Pilar

The past two Mondays were Pilar nights at the Plush Room and the faithful arrived early for ringside seats. Generally known as a pop/soul singer, Pilar has come up with her own distinctive label for her work — "green-eyed soul." She's looking great, sounding even better, and whatever she calls what she's doing, it's a turn-on. When those arms start coaxing and that body starts swaying and that sensuous voice starts crooning "Making Love," her fans submit to immediate hypnosis. It's an invitation to let your imagination run wild.

Most of Pilar's songs are about love, a very intense kind of love, and more than half of her set is made up of original music, some old, some new. Fans from old Chez Jacques nights will cherish her passionate versions of "The Way That I am," and "Breathless Taste of Spring," both co-written with Gary Remal. Pilar introduced the latter number with her own flute solo and then sang the lyrics to Bill Bealy's impressive keyboard arrangement.

"Motorcycle Song," a strange musical odyssey with marvelously hypnotic rhythms, is another original staple of her set. Pilar's very personal lyrics in which she weds intellect and emotion with such clarity are never better expressed than in her a cappella "Full Circle Round."

"Do You Want to Dance," was a soft insinuating invitation that was immediately following by the cautionary 'Better Watch Yourself." "Reverend Lee," a favorite from past years, was reprised with full revival meeting fervor. I found "Pink Cadillac" the least interesting of her contemporary selections. Leon Russell's "Song for You" was sung with compelling simplicity and Amanda McBroom's "The Rose" with some fine embroidery on strings, offered Pilar at her best. Even after a decade, she can still cast a spell over this song and make us believe we're hearing it for the first time.

Jean Michel Hurre on guitar, Glenn Veale on Electric bass, and Kevin Hayes on drums offered both sensitive and exciting accompaniment.

Anne Tofflemire

Anne Tofflemire's clear, bright, sweet voice, her fine sense of comedy timing, and her exquisite beauty add up to a triple-threat talent on the local scene. She's starred in *Side by Side by Sondheim, Rap Master Ronnie*, and most recently *Sammy Cahn Words and Music*. Why some producer doesn't snatch her off to Broadway and make her a national star is beyond me. But while we've got her, let's enjoy her.

Tofflemire's back on stage at the Plush Room through this weekend. Bob Bauer's on piano. It's a perfect pairing. The evening's program (with direction and consultation by Bill Brewer) was almost perfect, or let's say as perfect as these programs usually get.

She opened with "Who Cares" and "My Love is Here to Stay," and we were immediately reminded of what we've always liked about this vocalist. She sings lyrics with no affectation whatsoever, no vocal tricks, no fake emoting. She just makes music, now and then sounding like Barbara Cook in her early musicals. Sondheim's "Our Time" put us in a reflective mood that segued neatly into Rodgers and Hart's "You're Nearer," a simple tune that nevertheless packs a wallop.

Tofflemire's "Sunny Side of the Street" was fresh and bouncy and her zany treatment of Sondheim's satirical "Boy From..." revealed her flair for berserk comedy. Her demeanor and delivery were reminiscent of no less than Bea Lillie. A second comedy number, "If," from July Styne's *Two on the Aisle* was further proof that when she's funny, she's very funny.

Two Irving Berlin numbers from *Follow the Fleet*, "I'd Rather Lead a Band," and "Let Yourself Go" suited her nicely. But Berlin's "Moonshine Lullaby" seemed patently false. It's too cornball out of context and the purity of this vocalist's voice exposes it as such. I liked her treatment of "A Quiet Thing," and the mature understanding she brought to the flower-power-generation lyrics of "Easy to be Hard." Even so, the latter was a strange choice.

Jerry Herman's "Time Heals Everything" was the only song that is not presently working for this vocalist. It's a heavy torcher and required a totally different temperament and vocal approach.

But Tofflemire sang three songs that were as good as one could hope to hear. She was especially moving on Sammy Cahn's "I'll Only Miss Him When I Think of Him" and she brought a powerful reading to Sondheim's "Losing My Mind." (The latter song might well have closed the show. How could she have topped it?)

But the evening's moment of sheer magic came earlier on when she sang "Dear Friend" from *She Loves Me*. A masterpiece of understated singing that barely covered the sound of a breaking heart, it was a piece of musical theatre not soon to be forgotten. (If the producers of next year's summer musical season are serious about reviving *She Loves Me*, they'd do well to start at the top and cast Anne Tofflemire. Why settle for less?)

Tofflemire continues at the Plush Room through Sept. 4, Fri. and Sat. at 8 and 10:30, and Sun. at 8. Call 885-6800.

Magee and Blandini

John Magee and Eddie Blandini teamed up for a Sunday evening at The Galleon and were accompanied by (who else?) Lauren Mayer. It was my first time hearing either vocalist.

Tall, bright-eyed Magee (think Ray Bolger or Carleton Carpenter in those old college musicals from the forties) sang "Two Left Feet" from a 1949 musical, "Crazy Words, Crazy Tune" and a twenties show, and Harold Arlen's more familiar "Let's Fall in Love." Each was upbeat and bouncy.

That's where this young singer's forte lies — as the gangly, collegiate, comedic second-lead in a musical (Barnaby or Cornelius in *Hello, Dolly*!). He gives the impression that just as soon as he finishes the first chorus, he'll break into his dance. But on songs requiring a sustained musical line, romantic ballads, his vocal

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ART

Terry Kekaha: Painting An Elemental Land

BY SANDI HALL

Photo by Barbara Maggiani

The first thing to strike a viewer of Terry Kekaha's paintings is their strongly South Pacific vigor, especially in her use of color. Hot pink, cobalt blue, lava orange, rainforest greens — her canvases compel the eye to look and, once looking, take us to an elemental land where mystery is everywhere in play.

At her most recent exhibition, hung at the Brick Hut, Adeline Street, in Oakland (until September 13), only one of the nine paintings presents a "common" image: a seated woman holding a much swaddled infant, looking directly out of the canvas. Its title is "Look Me In The Eye," and indeed it is the face of this woman that is the key to the painting, for her face is scrolled over as were the women of pre-Caucasian Polynesia. She seems calm and proud, sitting outsided with her babe in countryside, as strong as the strength she radiates.

As a child Terry lived in Hawaii, and the energy and perception of that heritage seems to help fuel her work. All of the other canvases are depictions of some mythic land — even the one titled "Desert Scene," which ostensibly is merely a painting of several cacti and a single story adobe house, and could be anywhere in New Mexico, except that these cacti are gigantic. They dwarf the pueblo as a tree would dwarf a kitten. From the flat brown land — apperaing too wasted to support life — these cacti stream with life: vertical brilliances of color. They are the true life force of this place; even the pueblo has windows of black, as if anything that may have lived there has also been consumed by the cacti, and is gone.

Some of the paintings have the rawness of a vital, young talent. "My Freefall With Wings" has at its center a rather stiff, oddly boned, flying figure with two pairs of wings, one where its arms would be, the other rather precariously fixed to its back reminiscent of the flittery constructions on children playing angels in a nativity play.

"In the last few months, I've felt like I'm entering a time of lots of unknowns," says Terry, eyeing this painting. "But I'm not without resources. I have some wings that are taking me through." What I liked about this painting was its hot pink sky with fat white clouds. Purple peaks below show peril, but the concentration — and bemusement — on the face of the flying figure reveals both the wonder of finally taking creative flight and the joy of being up there — now — despite that peril.

At 27, Terry Kekaha is certainly a young painter. "I paint for myself really, but if I had to name an audience, I'd say [it is] those who connect with the spirit of my paintings. I'm a lesbian and it is important to me what women think of my paintings. Of course, I don't exclude men from my exhibitions, but it is more important to me what women feel about my paintings."

"In regard to my painting, I feel I'm just beginning to explore. I started one and a half years ago, and it has become an avenue of expression that continues to teach me a lot. It's an open door for me."

Terry lives and works from her family home in Berkeley, high on the flank of a hill, overlooking the Bay. The house has the innate comfort in its presence that houses have when they've been the home of the same family for many years. She is a blue belt in Kajukenbo kung fu and feels its disciplines are helpful to her art: "It teaches me patience, and the art of just being in the present moment. My kung fu practice and my canvases are constants for me, both evolving slowly as a sort of long meditation."

As for formative influences, "I adore Frida Kahlo, I've been influenced hugely by her." And also Bay Area painter Pacha Wasiolek, whose painting of Gladys Bentley adorned the cover of the second issue of *Out/Look*, and who has done the cover for the most current issue of *Sinister Wisdom*. But "I love Magritte too. I like how he has such a strange sense of life, that he just puts all sorts of bizarre elements together, and they say so much."

About her own ability to do just the same thing, Terry says: "Today I would describe my paintings as my very respected guides on my path toward insight and self knowledge; and also an excellent way of lowering my blood pressure."

Terry Kekaha. An uncommon talent unfolding right before our eyes.

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Safe Sex...

(continued from page 7)

guidelines are based on that. The English guidelines are going to be based on that. The Canadian guidelines are about to be revised on that. What people should be talking about is the number one risk."

The debate over the safe sex guidelines has turned full circle. Gay men in San Francisco and Boston started using condoms so as not to infect each other with hepatitis B and stop the spread of cofactors which could worsen the disease. In 1981-82, says Patton, "There was a basic notion that gay men's health had been mishandled by being treatment, rather than prevention, oriented." It was gay men who came up with the idea that diseases could be prevented and stopped at the source rather than being allowed to spread inside the community, and that attitude carried over into the early AIDS safe sex guidelines.

In 1984 AIDS hit the American public eye and the government finally noticed the epidemic. Condoms became the answer to all the world's ills. The idea of preventing cofactors and promoting general health fell away as all efforts went to preventing the emission of the virus in cum. Perversely, all attention on condoms focused attention on the one activity public health officials and AIDS educators were trying to get men away from.

"When you talk to Europeans, it is quite interesting, because they perceive Americans to be obsessed with fucking," says Patton. She says outside of the U.S. the major emphasis is getting away from penetrative sex, not obsessing on it.

Now, the emphasis is gradually moving back to improving general health and preventing cofactors which damage the immune system, not just excluding the virus. It is a slow journey back. "The reality is we want answers and don't want to think for ourselves. What everyone needs to know is the information keeps changing," reminds Lourea. The re-evaluation of personal risk assessment is a continuous process everyone has to be involved in.

Cabaret...

(continued from page 53)

attack is tentative. "Fools Rush In" revealed a breathing problem that was also evident on Victor Young's "Street of Dreams." He failed to sustain the musical "line" and build the emotional drive called for in the lyrics. Magee tended, too, to talk the lyrics of romantic songs ("The Way You Look Tonight"), punctuating pauses betwen phrases instead of gliding over them.

But Magee was, I must confess, funny on the funny stuff: "Ain't Nobody Here but Us Chickens," and, in tandem with Blandini, "Snap, Crackle, Pop," and Cole Porter's "Friendship." Magee has a wonderful songbook of fine, old, seldom-sung songs and when he picks and chooses according to the dictates of his talent, all's well.

The evening was nicely balanced between alternating soloes and duets, and Blandini's bigger voice provided good contrast when it came to ballads. His rich instrument was especially impressive on Lennon-McCartney's "In My LIfe," as well as on Stevie Wonder's "I Just Called to Say I Love You." "Hey, Look Me Over," also nicely sung, was followed by "Magic," a not particularly distinguished combination of words and music by John Farrar.

Blandini's tribute to Peggy Lee, "Watch What Happens" and "Fever" were well suited to his ability to project soft undercurrents of passion. When his voice is called upon to "sing out," it does; his rendition of "For Once in My Life," was the big encore ballad and it scored big.

You'll be hearing from both men in the future.

Lauren Mayer

You can't keep a good woman down, and when it's Lauren Mayer, you can't even keep her in one place. She bounces around from Belden Place to The Galleon, playing accompaniment for just about everyone. Mid-month she bounced into The Plush Room playing for herself.

But with a difference. An all-new show, all original, funny, satirical stuff. And decidedly more sophisticated than some of her previous work. She even *looks* different: chic, elegant, totally in charge.

A baker's dozen of new routines started naturally enough with this "singer-songwriter-nice-Jewish-girl's" plea, "I want to be Famous." From that legitimate ambition she explored some compulsive eating problems with "The Twinkie from Hell." In a further mood of self-flagellation, she investigated another social misconception, "Just Because I'm Jewish Doesn't Mean I'm A Princess."

"I Can't Remember His Name" offered a nice lyric about a girl trying to find the boy she's in love with who happens to have stolen her wrist watch. (Yes, Virginia, there was a similar song in *Hair*.) Mayer provided her own do-wop backup on this one — a bizarre but infectious musical obstacle course.

A delightfully bitchy round of Broadway musical satires featured a John Denver approach to *The Sound of Music* (music by John Denver), a Barry Manilow version of *Sweeney Todd* (music by Manilow), and an outrageous impression of non-hit songs from the late but unlamented *Carrie*. (Can vulgarity be vulgarized? Can you think of a rhyme for pig's blood?)

"Oy, Oy, Oy," a tourist song, was probably the weakest number in the show. Satirizing tourists has been an easy mark since the first songwriter stepped ashore at Plymouth Rock. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" and "La Bimbo" (apologies to Richie Valens) require no further explanation, and "The Lounge Pianist's Lament," (who *listens*? who *cares* who listens?) closed her set of new material.

This irrepressible comedy singer encored with her signature tune, the straight woman's lament about available men in San Francisco, "Married, Neurotic, or Gay." Very possibly — in San Francisco — all three!

Two-Steppin' to Ten Years:
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band

Lovers of ragtime music will be two-stepping and turkey trotting in Oakland when the Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band holds a 10th anniversary celebration performance there September 10.

The 10-member band began in 1978 as an adjunct to the Gay Marching Band. Director John Sims organized musicians from several bands and donated a number of ragtime arrangements he had rescued from his frat house in Kansas for a special benefit program at the Castro Theatre. The show was called "A Little Rights Music" and the cause was the fight against the Briggs initiative, the measure that would have legalized dismissal of gay teachers in the public school system.

"We had only rehearsed a couple of times and we didn't play very well that first time," says band member Bruce Vermazen, "but the crowd was very enthusiastic." The band began playing regularly, first at Hotel Utah and then at Valencia Rose. When the Rose closed the group moved to the East Bay, where they now perform monthly at Ashkenaz in Berkeley.

Almost all of the original members are still with the band, and Vermazen thinks that stability has helped make the band better musically. "The cumulative experience of everyone playing together has helped to develop a really distinctive group style," he says.

The arrangements have been steadily acquired over the years, says Vermazen. "In the early days we really had to scramble — we'd find four or five at a time in book stores and antique shops. Then we got in touch with collectors in Los Angeles and San Diego and now we can photocopy 30 or 40 at a time."

They perform numbers by John Philip Sousa, Irving Berlin, Scott Joplin and other composers of the period 1890-1920. The instruments include two violins, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, cornet, trombone, tuba and piano. In addition to rags the band plays marches, waltzes, polkas, intermezzos, vaudeville songs and an occasional polonaise.

Their audience has changed over the years. When playing in San Francisco they had a primarily gay following, but at Ashkenaz the crowd is mixed. "We've kept a small part of the gay audience but we also get lots of older people in their 50s, 60s, 70s and younger people who like to dance. Also a lot of people who don't fit into any group, thank goodness."

The Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band has recorded four albums and played a number of benefits for such causes as the Gay Games and the Names Project. They also play weekly half-hour broadcasts on KCSM Saturdays at 6:30 pm.

The 10th anniversary Grand Ragtime Ball will begin at 8:00 with an hour's instruction in the turkey trot, the grizzly bear, the two-step and the waltz. The band will perform from 9:00 to 11:00, and proceeds from the bar will benefit the Names Project. The ball will be held at the Oakland Veteran's Memorial Building, 200 Grand Avenue. Tickets are $8.

—Christina Smith

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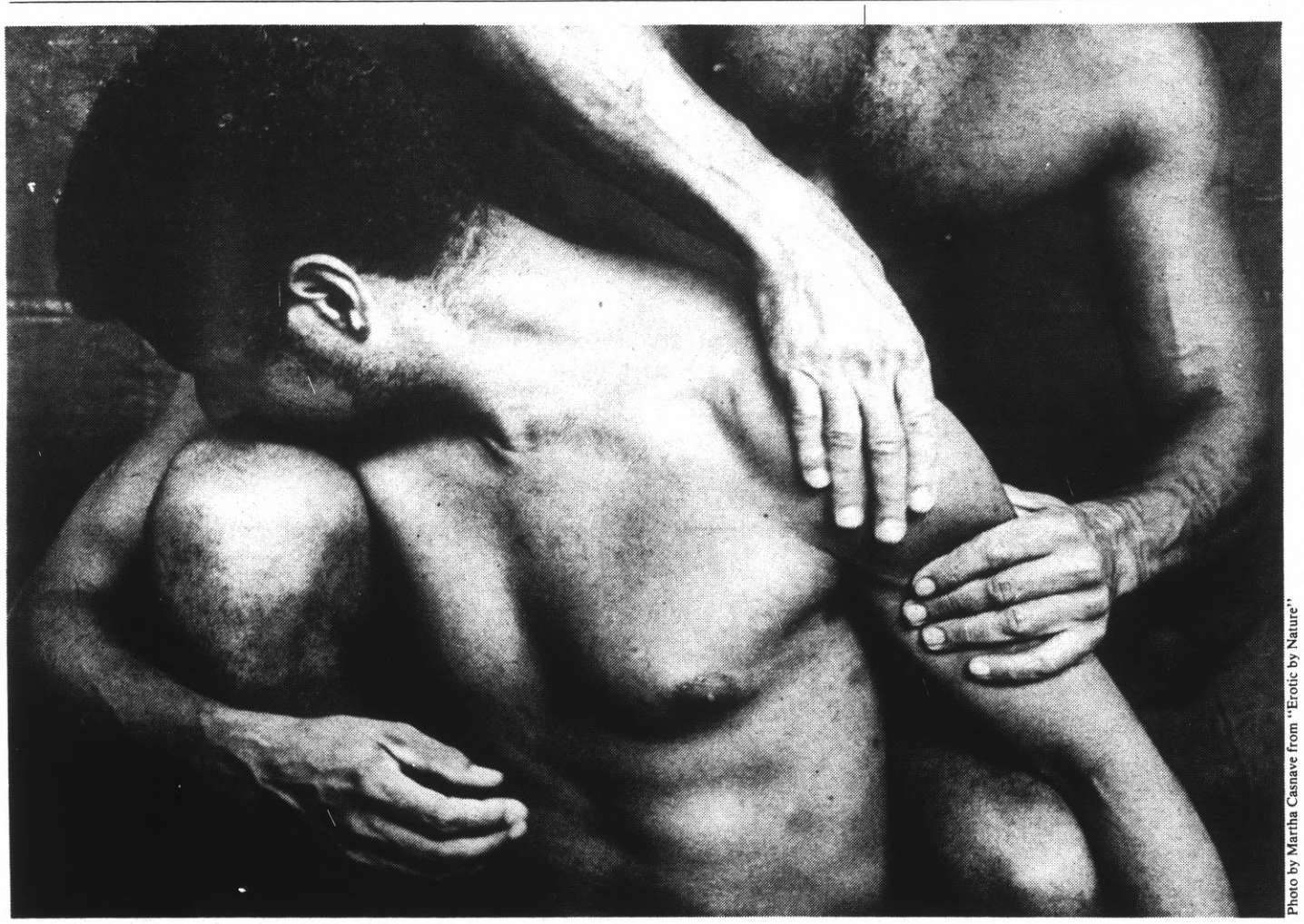


Photo by Martha Casnave from "Erotic by Nature"

Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America

By John D'Emilio & Estelle B. Freedman
Harper & Row, 1988, $24.95, 428 pps.

"Perhaps what the study of America's history allows us to say with assurance is that sexuality has become central to our economy, our psyches, and our politics. For this reason, it is likely to stay vulnerable to manipulation as a symbol of social problems and the subject of efforts to maintain social hierarchies. As in the past, sex will remain a source of both deep personal meaning and heated political controversy."

REVIEWED BY CRAIG MACHADO

Watching this summer's political conventions, you probably gave up counting the number of times "the family" or "family values" were intoned by various speakers. The major candidates, de rigueur, add to their list of credentials by being a family person; they have their families and children on the podium for unmistakable viewing by the public. It is hardly likely that you would ever see a single, divorced, or gay person running for the presidency. "Family" is a strong symbol, ceaselessly promoted these past few years by the Right, and it has a clear message: heterosexual, married, with children, homophobic, anti-abortion, anti-sex education, anti-pre-marital sex, anti-pornography, distinct masculine and feminine roles.

The idea that sex is destiny, that sexuality relates directly to power and control in a multiplicity of meanings, underscores much of the discussion that has gone on in this country concerning sex since the first Puritans arrived here. Authors John D'Emilio and Estelle B. Freedman in their ground-breaking work *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America* work from this premise as they chronicle some 300 years of sexual mores, roles, practices, identities, movements, politics and relationships. Their efforts, bolstered by exhaustive research and study, present the reader with not only the sexual history of this country, but a thoughtful consideration as well of the ideology of sexuality and its various meanings, regulations, prohibitions, permissions, and discussions.

Freedman and D'Emilio admonish that the history of sex in America has not, as some might believe, moved in a straight line from repressed Puritan to New Age sex liberationist. Rather, sexuality must be viewed from various angles, historical periods and political phases; sexuality informs and has been informed by wars, depressions, the slave trade, racism, class, the shift from an agrarian to urban culture, the availability or lack of birth control, the decline of family and community in regulating individual behaviors, the intervention of the state in personal matters, communist witch hunting, the women's movement, the drive against "smut," censorship, etc.

By the 19th century, heterosexual sex had enshrined the notion of the chaste, pure (hopefully a virgin) female; passive, sentimental, bound to hearth and husband, much less interested in sex than her aggressive, dominant male counterpart. The ideal saw procreation in marriage as the sole legitimate area for sexual intercourse — never mind that men were going out of the "sanctity" of marriage to visit prostitutes; they were (sometimes) forgiven their insistent sexual desires and "peculiarly male needs."

The white, middle class sexual norm began to break down as an expanding urban economy pushed more people, men and women, into cities. Socialization outside the home, the appearance of dance halls, women taking jobs, romantic and erotic portrayals on the silver screen all helped to mix the sexes much more and heighten interest in sexual pleasure in and outside of marriage. As procreation became more unlinked from sex, men and women had more opportunity to pursue pleasure for its own sake. A depression and two world wars pushed women further into the public sphere of independence. They joined the labor force, served in the military (Marge Piercy's *Gone to Soldiers* beautifully outlines the massive changes taking place in women and men's lives during WWII). Sex research, once considered taboo, discovered an amazing breadth and depth of interest in matters sexual and people such as John Kinsey and Masters & Johnson aired the diversity of America's sex practices — including the finding that about 7 percent of the population was exclusively homosexual.

On that topic D'Emilio and Freedman provide ample analysis as well. Again, before the latter part of the 19th century, homosexuality was rarely acknowledged or discussed. Similar phenomena affecting heterosexuals — urbanization, socialization outside the family structure — played a part in bringing same sex relationships more out in the open. Writers such as Walt Whitman explored erotic relations between men; women attending all female colleges were known to develop "special friendships;" clubs and bars such as those in Harlem provided space for drag shows, dancing and meeting. But not until after World War II, with so many gays and lesbians moving to large cities, did organized groups form to promote same sex interests. The sexual liberalism which loosened up heterosexuals — sexual pleasure not necessarily tied to procreation, birth control, pre-marital sex — did not grant an equal status to gays and lesbians. Their struggle continues to this day with some important social advances doggedly fought by the moral purists and New Righters.

Arguably the biggest impact on sex in America has come from a capitalist economy ever more clever and devious in creating need for a consumerist society. Despite the alarm and handwringing by the sex purists on everything from gays to pornography, the economy has used sex to sell its wares. The voices of prudery, abstinence and monogamy in marriage are undermined by the eroticized messages attached to goods and services; the marketplace tapped into Eros and the cash registers have never stopped ringing. As *Intimate Matters* concludes, any discussion of sex has got to somehow question the assumptions under which the economy operates, and that is no easy task.

Freedman (author of *Their Sisters' Keepers: Women's Prison Reform in America 1830-1930*) and D'Emilio (author of *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority, 1940-1970*) deserve many kudos for collaborating on this major study. The text is a meaty, succinct synthesis of some 300 years of sexual history done in a compelling and always illuminating fashion. We should look forward eagerly to future joint efforts by these authoritative social historians.

Lesbian Couples

By D. Merilee Clunis & C. Dorsey Green
Seal Press, 1988, $10.95, 251 pps.

REVIEWED BY SANDI HALL

The compendium of books that analyze, dissect and offer insights to the emotional aspects of our lesbian world is further added to by Seal Press's publication of *Lesbian Couples*. This book, put together as so many are by therapists, has eighteen chapters which start by asking "What is a Couple Anyway?" and proceed through as many aspects of lesbian coupledom as the authors could chart.

While the book is peppered with sentences that are inane to anyone with a reasonable intelligence ('For most of us, our personal relationships have a significant role in our lives.'), it does offer a practical guide to looking at basic behavior patterns of lesbian interaction in all stages from falling in love to facing old age together. For me, believing as I do that *anything* can be handled with good communication, the most valuable section of the book is Chapter 12, "Understanding Each Other." The authors have chosen many common examples of our inability to communicate with each other, using everyday incidents to illustrate their points:

> Lucille told her lover Sandra, "I bought some towels today at the January white sale at Sears." When Sandra responded with "Do you think we really need them?" Lucille felt criticized and unappreciated.
>
> On the surface, Lucille was simply conveying information about the towel purchase. But beyond (that), she also wanted approval and recognition. She wanted Sandra to acknowledge her for being clever and thinking ahead, for being thrifty by buying on sale, and for being considerate because Sandra mentioned months ago that it would be nice to have some new towels.
>
> Self esteem was a major part of this discussion of towels. This is often the case. We talk about towels, or household tasks... but the real topic is self esteem.

The authors point out that another block to communication is "listening poorly and interpreting incorrectly." Not only do we automatically filter out many sounds our ears receive (traffic noise if we're reading, etc.), but we also "classify our impressions into familiar categories and then fill in the details. We pay attention long enough to decide if the present experience is similar to one we have had in the past." It is our own desire to be in control, to be able to handle all situations, to be seen as knowledgeable and competent *and to be right* that hampers our ability to listen well. The result of all this is often catastrophic: "...we take short cuts. We get a little information, infer the rest, and come to our conclusions. Then we let all this solidify, and from then on we act as if we know the truth."

Most helpful is the inclusion of possible dialogues between lovers, which sharply reminded me of the opening scenes of *Annie Hall*:

> (Tess and Roberta) had just seen Tess's former lover Ginny and her partner Doris (leave) for Hawaii.
>
> Tess thinks: Maybe if we went on a vacation together we'd feel closer.
>
> She says, "I wish we could go to Hawaii this winter."

Photo by Honey Lee Cottrell

Roberta thinks: Why is she always suggesting things we can't afford? Next she'll be on my case about getting a different job.

She says: "Hawaii's too expensive and besides I can't take time off work."

Tess thinks: There she goes with that work stuff again. I know she thinks I'm lazy and she has always resented that my grandmother left me that money.

She says: "Well, Ginny and Doris manage to go."

Roberta thinks: Now she's comparing me to Ginny again. Can I help it if I'm not rich? She has no respect for me?

She says: "Well, maybe you'd better find yourself a partner who makes more money than I do."

Tess thinks: She doesn't really care if I stay or go.

She says: "Well, maybe I should."

While I shudder to think that most lesbian couples operate at so puerile a level, this exposure of the layers of meaning inherent in any dialogue did hit home with me. I have had conversations with just such attendant "head asides" — with just as destructive an outcome.

The authors, after giving several examples of this type of non-communication, offer a practical answer, which originated with Barbara Jacobsen and Richard Stuart in their book *Second Marriage*. While even this rule will not work with insensitive, domineering, insecure or extremely egotistical people, it does provide a framework within which each partner in the discussion can get her point of view across and her unspoken communication needs met.

Chapter 3, "Separateness and Togetherness" spotlights the commonality of and the disadvantages of merging: "edge meets edge, differences are recognized and appreciated... there is the wonderful feeling of losing oneself... (but if) the power balance is not equitable, resentments build (and) the relationship is ripe for the development of unhealthy dependencies."

Trust and openness are two requirements for positive intimacy, as well as each partner "understanding what the other needs to feel valued and appreciated." We must stop making assumptions about one another and, "rather than treating our partner as we wish to be treated, treat her the way she wants to be treated."

Sex is the subject of Chapter 6. "Current controversies about sadomasochism (*is* this still current?), lesbian erotica and pornography, and butch/femme roles reflect our struggles to define, understand, embrace and — in some cases — judge our sexuality and that of others...," the chapter begins. This statement seems a little dated to me, but perhaps I haven't been paying attention. And could someone tell me if saying femme/butch is politically correct or incorrect?

But there's some good basic information here about frequency and desire, as well as an acknowledgement that "other factors may influence our sexuality on a deep level... trauma and early abuse."

Other chapters discuss stages of relationships, living arrangements, work, money and time, monogamy and nonmonogamy, friends, family and a sense of community, lesbian couples with children, how racism affects couples, disability, recovery, and growing older together. Many of these subjects are each a topic of another book, but the authors are careful with their bibliography, and there is real value in having a handy reference to each of them all in one book.

The last chapter, "Beginning Again," also provides some useful guidelines to have in your head when you are either actively looking for a partner, or in the first throes of interest in someone. They are also useful, I think, for spotlighting reasons why the relationship you are now in might not be working:

> Guideline 1: If there is anything you very much want in a partner, look for someone who has it already. We cannot trust the power of our love to create what is not there initially.
>
> Guideline 2: Love is not enough. Love is essential for a good couple relationship but... if two people are not compatible in their ways of handling the details of daily life or if their goals and values are very different, love may not be enough for a satisfying commitment.

Two other guildelines complete this section. In my opinion, the book could have been more firmly edited, especially by someone with an eye for literary inanities. But otherwise, it should serve our community well, and its pleasantly decorative cover by Clare Conrad will look well on our bookshelves.

You Can't Drown the Fire
Latin American Women Writing in Exile

Edited by Alicia Partnoy
Cleis Press, 1988, $9.95, 258 pps.

REVIEWED BY SKYE MORRISON

From Argentina and Chile to El Salvador and Guatemala, the voices of these women — Indians, peasants, doctors, journalists, poets, housewives — rise up in collective pain and with an enormous amount of courage that cannot be ignored.

The recently published book, *You Can't Drown the Fire: Latin American Women Writing in Exile*, offers us a glimpse into the lives of women who have been forced to leave their countries because of political repression. The voices of these women — 35 in all — come to us from such diverse places as Sweden, Spain, Mexico and the United States.

They are women with differing political ideologies. They are young and old. They cross all class lines. But the one thing they all have in common is their commitment to freedom. As Alicia Partnoy, editor of the anthology, says, "None was born under the sign of passivity."

Some of these women are no longer alive. Many have suffered imprisonment, torture and rape. Others have seen their children, parents, brothers and sisters tortured and killed. Some have lost their entire families.

But this book is far more than a chronicle of horror — it is a chronicle of hope. These women who have lost so much more than most of us can conceive still carry a belief in joy and a commitment to struggle for justice.

Many of these women were well-known writers in their own countries before going into exile. Some of them have succeeded in gaining international recognition. Readers interested in Latin American literature and politics may be familiar with such names as Isabel Allende, Rigoberta Menchú, Luisa Valenzuela and Mercedes Sosa. Some writers are translated into English for the first time in this book.

You Can't Drown the Fire quite effectively massacres all the old, traditional stereotypes of Latin American women. Here we see true women warriors.

A guerrilla commander in El Salvador tells us how she withstood torture in a secret prison. "As I faced each torture, I thought of all the suffering of the people, which adds up to something far more painful than what I felt."

A 12-year-old poet, who saw most of her family massacred, writes from a Honduran refugee camp:

> So many new things to address
> in our new society
> we want to see progress
> living in fraternity.

An Argentine woman speaks of the pain of saying goodbye to her mother before going underground (and soon becoming one of the "disappeared"):

> What emotion did she hold in her chest after I denied her the right to her daughter and gave her, in return, fear and uncertainty? I don't know. I have never asked you, mami. What happened to you during all the years that followed that afternoon? Because, after all, those dark shadows found me and took me away from everything, as you know, mami.

For the exile, words are sometimes the only concrete communion she has in the face of an unreal reality, as expressed by Alaíde Foppa in her poem "Words."

> An infancy
> nourished on silence,
> a life that seeds absences
> From words alone
> I expect
> the ultimate presence.
>
> Stripped
> day by day
> of all my garments,
> dry naked tree,
> in my solitary withered mouth
> fresh words
> will still blossom.

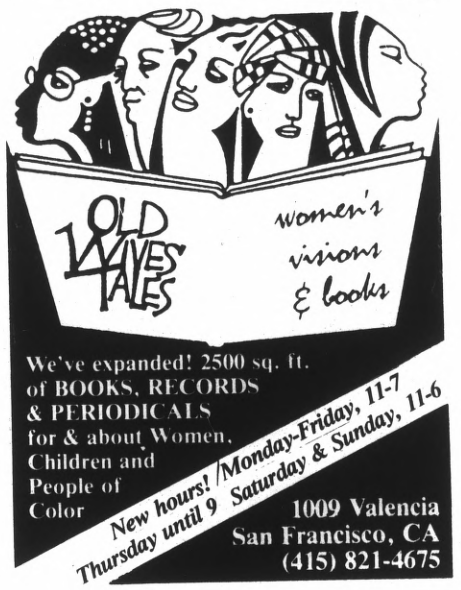
In December of 1980, at the age of 65, Alaíde Foppa was kidnapped by the Guatemalan army. She had returned there from exile, to visit her elderly mother. Foppa is still "disappeared."

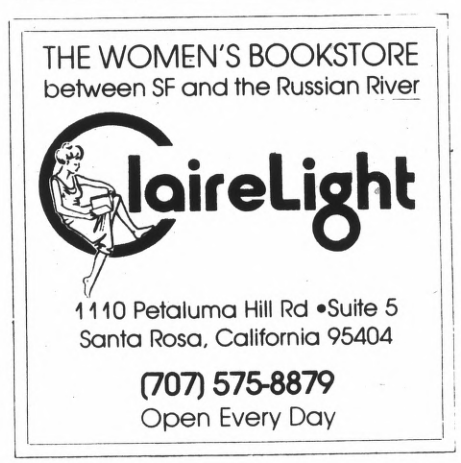
Partnoy herself is a political refugee. She came to the United States in 1979 after three years in an Argentine prison.

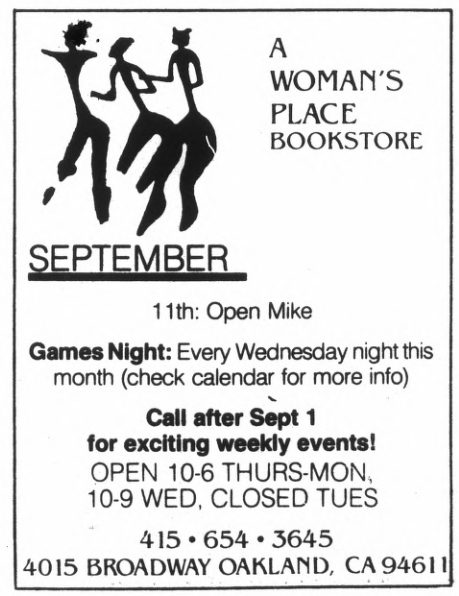
Partnoy wrote a book about her experiences in prison, *The Little School: Tales of Disappearance and Survival in Argentina*, published by Cleis Press in 1986. The book generated a lot of interest and requests for writings by other Latin American women who have suffered under the repression. In this way, *You Can't Drown the Fire* came to be born.

Partnoy says she had three objectives in mind when compiling this anthology: to build cultural bridges, to destroy stereotypes about Latin American women, and to denounce political repression.

The book succeeds in all of this and more. It redefines history — giving us back our heroes, people we can relate to, common women like you and I. There are no Rambos and Supermen in these stories — only strong, proud women who refuse to be silenced.







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Homosexuality: A Philosophical Inquiry

By Michael Ruse
Basil Blackwell, 1988

REVIEWED BY BRETT McDONNELL

A political movement starts having long-term impact once society's intellectuals start taking its ideas seriously. That process has helped feminism become the greatest social movement of our time. In comparison, lesbian and gay intellectual scribblings are only just getting off the ground. Our main triumphs so far have been in the area of lesbian and gay history, where many of the pioneers are outside formal academentia (Mary Daly's term).

As one would expect, more radical-type thinkers in the "softer" disciplines, e.g. history and literary criticism, have been the most open to a gay perspective. The more analytic types who congregate in science and Anglo-American philosophy departments have not caught on so quickly. When they do deal with gay people, they frame their writings in "objective" terms, which at best yield a mild liberal tolerance, and often thinly cover up strong homophobia.

All this may be changing, as Michael Ruse has published *Homosexuality: A Philosophical Inquiry*, the first book-length work of analytic philosophy on the subject of which I am aware. Now, a sympathetic work of analytic philosophy on gay issues is a strange event, and readers more familiar with feminist or various radical perspectives should be prepared for some oddities. For instance, radical/feminist/etc. folk take "the personal is political" as an axiom. Yet, Ruse makes such a good attempt at being objective that I *still* cannot figure out whether or not he is gay.

Be that as it may, Ruse sets out to examine the philosophical aspects of issues around homosexuality (he rarely says "lesbian" or "gay") that have arisen in analytic science and philosophy. This divides into two parts. First is what Ruse calls "epistemological" concerns, namely problems that arise in attempts to determine the cause of homosexuality in people. Second is moral and political concerns about whether or not homosexuality is good or permissible.

This framework automatically rules out sustained discussion of most lesbian and gay historians, who have tended towards a radical "constructivist" position. That is, they say that the experience of homosexuality differs radically over time and between cultures, and that the whole concept of "the homosexual" with a separate identity is a new one. Ruse does, though, discuss the constructivists at the beginning, and he has some interesting points to make. No one denies that people have had sex with members of the same sex throughout history, and it is hard to deny that there have always been some people much more strongly inclined to do this than others. The constructivist hypothesis concerns how people interpret their inclinations and actions, and Ruse largely agrees with them on this.This still leaves space, though, for attempted scientific explanations of how some people arrive at such inclination and behavior in the first place.

I think that Ruse ends discussion on this too quickly. Interpretation cannot be so easily separated from behavior and inclination. How you see yourself will certainly affect what you do and (probably to a lesser degree) also how you feel. So if the constructivists are right, Ruse and those he follows must be much more careful in studying the causes of homosexuality abstracted from particular societies. Conversely, we shall see that most of the scientific theories Ruse examines seem to imply marked differences (at least on average) between gay people and others in a broad range of areas. To oversimplify, gay men will tend to be more "feminine" than straight men, and lesbians will tend to be more "masculine" than straight women. (For here I leave aside as too complex

Michael Ruse

the issue of to what degree masculine/feminine is culturally determined or rather has a biological base.) If this is so, then perhaps differences between gays and straights are more transculturally constrained than contructivists would have it.

Nowhere does Ruse discuss the gay "essentialist" line of thought (many essays in this line are brought together in *Gay Spirit: Myth and Meaning*, edited by Mark Thompson). The essentialists basically argue that gays throughout history have been unique, and have distinctive spiritual insights to bring to the world. This revolves around a mixture of gender roles and reactions in gay people. The gay essentialists tend towards mysticism, all very mushy from an analytic point of view, but many of the theories Ruse discusses suggest some biological base for essentialism. I think ultimately all this can be reconciled along the following general lines: there are some biological differences between (many) gays and straights that do tend towards distinctly different behavior in many ways, but whether and how this actually occurs is vitally affected by social setting and upbringing. Ruse's analysis gives some help in working towards such a position, but he could have gone much further.

At any rate, Ruse examines in some detail psychological, hormonal, and sociobiological explanations of homosexuality. (I think, but I'm not sure that Ruse realizes, that we could just as well examine causes of heterosexuality.) This is all quite interesting, especially the chapter on hormones, about which I knew little. In all cases Ruse concludes that the explanations have some promise, but so far have not been well tested. He reaches these conclusions via Karl Popper's methodology of science, which says that a scientific theory should be judged by how well it can be falsified, and whether or not it has been. This leads to a crisp and clear treatment too crisp and clear. Much has happened in the philosophy of science since Popper, and an adequate analysis should be more complex than Ruse's.

Ruse then turns to ethical and political issues. He first asks if homosexuality is ethically defensible. He answers using the two great ethical theories of modern philosophy, Kant and utilitarianism. Ruse concludes that once one refutes the contention that homosexuality is "unnatural" then both theories must conclude that homosexuality is no worse (or better) than heterosexuality. But, Ruse gives promiscuity, gay or straight, low marks on both theories.

I want to make several points here. First, the whole use of sweeping ethical theories is debatable — indeed, this is a major debate in philosophy today. Second, Ruse leaves out the category of ethical theories dating from Aristotle that emphasize virtue and moral character. I will only assert here that I think one can come to similar conclusions with this theory. Finally, I think Ruse gives promiscuity rather short shrift, though he has a point. To a utilitarian, casual sex may (or may not!) be a rather low pleasure, but it is a pleasure nonetheless, and there is thus at least nothing wrong with it, and actually some good to it. The situation with Kant is more complex. Ruse condemns promiscuity based on the version of Kant's categorical imperative that says we should treat others as ends in themselves, rather than as mere means to our own gratification. On this score, promiscuity (or at least anonymous sex — there is a difference) looks bad. But, think of Kant's first version of the imperative: do not treat others in a way that you wouldn't want to be treated yourself. On this formulation, casual sex looks perfectly defensible to me (except perhaps for always insisting on being on top), since presumably someone engaging in such sex does not necessarily mind that his/her partner(s) is not concerned with him/her as a total person.

At the end Ruse covers political issues. Here again Ruse discusses utilitarianism and a modern-day version of Kant, John Rawls, plus the more conservative communitarian legal philosophy of Lord Devlin. Ruse is able to squeeze relatively liberal positions even out of Devlin. Here as elsewhere, though, Ruse is limited by his use of only the most mainstream of analytic positions. And even within this, he does not ask how a gay perspective might alter our thinking about someone like Rawls. For instance, what should we say about Rawls's implicit assumptions about the standard nuclear family? How can a liberal philosopher who tends to shun the state's interference with individual values yet who stresses the importance of self-respect reconcile the two in a society where many are homophobic (and racist and sexist)? Ruse does not ask these questions.

Overall, Ruse's use of very standard and somewhat dated philosophy makes his book clear and "straight"forward, yet less interesting and important than it might have been. Still, it serves as a basic introduction to a number of issues. I hope other philosophers in Ruse's crowd pick up where he has left off.

The East Bay Out: A Personal Guide to the East Bay Regional Parks

By Malcolm Margolian
Heyday Books, 1988, $8.95, 227pp.

REVIEWED BY CRAIG MACHADO

One of the Bay Area's better drawing cards is the natural environment; from ocean beaches, regional parks and multi-purpose recreational areas to that gem of a national park in our own backyard — Point Reyes. The open spaces, places to walk,

relax, cycle, picnic and observe nature are particularly valued in the dense urban sprawl hugging San Francisco Bay.

While the East Bay continues to struggle for equal footing and recognition with that glamour queen to the west, San Francisco, its regional system of accessible parks and wilderness areas is probably one of the best in the country. There are some 60,000 acres which belong to the East Bay Regional Park District stretching northeast to the Antioch Shoreline and south to Ohlone Wilderness near Fremont. The park district comprises 40 different parks, over a thousand miles of hiking trails, freshwater lakes, 40 miles of bayshore access, as well as campgrounds, bike paths, nature study facilities, places to swim, fish and boat. The geographical scope takes in marshlands, streams, creeks, rolling hills, mountains, grassy valleys, redwood dells, fern-draped canyons, rivers and lakes.

Malcolm Margolian first authored *The East Bay Out* in 1974. Margolian, a long-time resident of the East Bay and writer of natural history and the American Indians, worked for the park district several years, translating his experiences into a series of gentle and thoughtful commentaries about the parklands. This '88 reissue is handsomely published (by his own Heyday press) and includes some fine wood-cut prints by Carl Dennis Buell.

Margolian is not just another promoter for the parks; his writing goes beyond the normally pedestrian recounting of what one can do and expect in a given park or wilderness area. Each piece in this book is really a meditation about the land, the interplay of flora and fauna, the people he meets and observes.

The author has included directions and helpful hints on the parks and maps. *The East Bay Out* is a delightful companion to your hike or stroll; even if you're a seasoned East Bay park goer, Margolian is sure to enhance your appreciation for these irreplaceable oases among the din and drab of 20th century car culture, et al.

Love, Struggle & Change

Edited by Irene Zahava
Crossing Press, 1988, $8.95, 183pps.

REVIEWED BY SANDI HALL

One of the unexpected gifts of this book of twelve short stories edited by Irene Zahava is its texture, supplied by the sensitive placement of one story against another so that when reading it "straight through," I was left with a feeling of having been in many countries of our women's world.

Part of this is due to the extraordinary vividness of Sylvia Watanabe's "Colors," a story of dreaming, light, and death that I was opened and made vulnerable to by Margaret Atwood's "Giving Birth," the first story in the collection.

Ms. Atwood's ability to take you right inside her character's reality is justly acclaimed, and in this story, even for women who have not "given birth" (her musings on this phrase are the spindle around which the story is wound), she captures the twilight zone reality women enter when we find ourselves part of the source of life and death. Jeanie is giving birth, accompanied by a sort of doppelganger of herself "wearing a cloth coat with checks in maroon and brown, and she has a kerchief tied over her hair." Jeanie has seen her before, at stores she's been shopping in, and on streets she has walked to keep fit during her pregnancy.

"...but she knows little about her except that she is a woman who did not wish to become pregnant, who did not choose to divide herself like this, who did not choose any of these ordeals, these initiations."

Nothing really happens to Jeanie. The baby is born, and as far as Jeanie is concerned, she did not even have the vision she expected to have as a result of temporarily living "in that dark place, which is not hell, which is more like being inside, trying to get out." But the next morning, waking at dawn, "which always makes her feel a little unreal, a little insubstantial, as if she's partly transparent, partly dead," Jeanie gets out of bed and goes to the window, where she opens the venetian blind and looks out onto the building which is the window's only view:

> It's an old stone building, heavy and Victorian, with a copper roof oxidized to green. It's solid, hard, darkened by soot, dour, leaden. But as she looks at this building, so old and seemingly immutable, she sees that it's made of water... light flows through it, the building is so thin, so fragile, that it quivers in the slight dawn wind.

Straight from this magic the reader is introduced to Little Grandma, the central character of "Colors." In exploring the mystery of death, Sylvia Watanabe gives us an Hawaiian family in words as vivid as an Hawaiian shirt:

> Green, red, blue. The silver pins glinted in Little Grandma's hands, as she laid the patch-work triangles, one by one into the shapes of stars. The gold cap on her front tooth gleamed. She seemed all tiny giants and flashes, like light shining through a creaky door.

Hana is summoned back to Hawaii from "the mainland" because her father has been "stolen" from the rest home by Little Grandma. Unable to talk of her own private miseries, which include her husband's defection, she is both soothed and dazzled by both her island home and her family.

The decision on whether or not her father is to be returned to the rest home is made more imperative by the suspicion that he could be the Laundry Burglar, whose predations have included "a scarf from Emi's gardening hat, a pair of Doc McAllister's runing shorts, the pink rose from Cousin Missy's scholarship dress" and now, after a cessation of four or five years, the "white satin nightcap belonging to the dancing school teacher."

While love and change are definitely part of these stories, it is struggle that dominates the collection. Jane Lazarre's character struggles with the inner and outer impacts of the world on her emotions in "Penetrations," from the execution of a South African poet to accepting the widening emotional gap between her and her eldest son:

> Then suddenly he stopped embracing her. His kisses were perfunctory. For weeks she said nothing, knowing she must let him do this, feeling like a lover who knows a passionate affair is about to end and watches with a strange distance which is sacrifice, resignation and protection all at one.

Candy, the teenager whose struggle is "simply" growing up, is at work and hoping against hope that her father will arrive, in Toni Cade Bambera's "Christmas Eve at Johnson's Drugs N Goods." Ms. Bambera's teenage cadence is flawless, capturing youth's sharp insights and naivete. Johnson's Drugs N Goods is "laid out so funny in criss-cross aisles you get to feeling like a rat in an endless maze," and it is owned and ordered by Miz Johnson "who don't give you no slack, whatever the holiday." Into the store's Christmas Eve emptiness come two women, and the store, which has been shifting and sliding for Candy, stops "sprawling, got fixed.... We all got pulled

(continued on next page)

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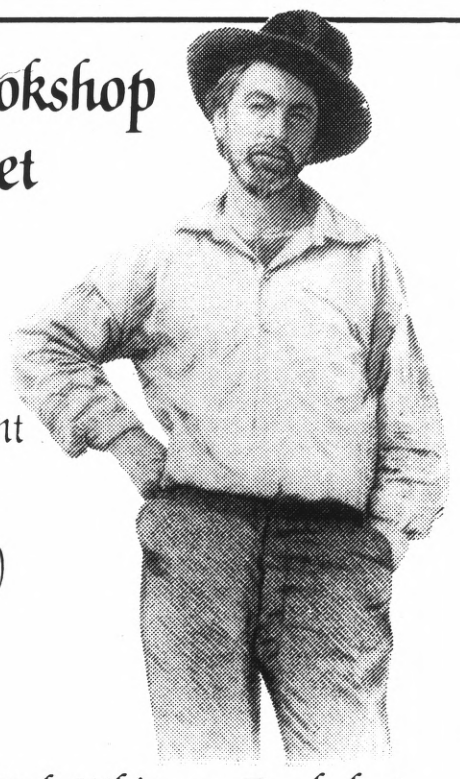

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YOUR WISH IS OUR COMMAND

(continued from previous page)

together from our various zones to one focal point — them."

Candy's story is so packed with people it could almost be a novel. Each one of them is memorable and well named because "either you call a person a name that says what they're about or you call them what they call themselves." There's Fur Coat who "in her fur coat make you stand stil and listen to this madness;" Piper in Tobacco, "George Lee Piper love him some George Lee Piper. Can't blame him. Piper be fine;"

> the new dude in Drugs who don't ever say much stopped the show one afternoon when we were trying to figure out what to call the street riots in the sixties and so forth. He say Revolution without Transformation is Half-assed...

All these characters and several more outline the boundaries of Candy's world, in conflict because neither her mother nor her father is very securely in her life.

Yvonne Pepin charts the struggle of self with self in "One Summer" and Harriet Malinowitz, in words of subtle melancholy, makes "Water Skiing" an accurate metaphor for loss:

> The next morning she went to work and I had a Sealy Posturepedic mattress delivered. She decided to leave work at 10 a.m. and come over and try out the Sealy. It rained outside all day and I felt happier than I could remember ever feeling before.... I thought it was a step up the ladder of joy, but it turned out to be the top rung...

Both of these are set in such different places — one in an apartment, closed and isolatory, the other on a mountainside where the essence of nature is seen to "move like wind, like wave, always constant, expanding and retractable motion, sometimes at a lull, other times with great tidal impact" — that they add to the sense of visiting different countries, a sense completed by the "no address" world of the people of the road in Becky Birtha's "In the Deep Heart's Core." Here, 40-year-old Sahara meets an 18-year-old woman who has just come to the road, and is taken back on an inner journey on a night when "the wind is high, blowing shreds and shards of gray clouds across a three-quarter moon," Sahara makes the young woman smile, which "makes Sahara feel as if a door has suddenly swung wide open in this night, a door into a bright new place that has never been entered."

There's a quick dip into a future country in Sally Gearheart's "Chipko," which combines a devotion to the plant life of the planet with women at their fullest strength in a battle to save the tree named Big Mama Oka. Garland has "crossed a whole ocean and half a continent to remember the quiet island grove" where her own personal fighting stick, Obeah, Fear-Striker, had its origin.

And Jewelle Gomez's "Don't Explain," with its low-key description of Letty, a woman who is woman-oriented but never thinks of herself as lesbian, slides us smoothly back to the days when Billie Holiday sang to her own women lovers.

All in all, a satisfying collection of stories in a well designed book, thanks to Martha Waters, with a strong cover by Diana Souza. I do wish, though, that the fact that Margaret Atwood is a Canadian writer was honored here.

Women's Foundation Benefit Celebrates Bay Area Women Writers

Photo by Haruko

Nellie Wong

The second "Women of Words" sponsored by the Women's Foundation will honor six Bay Area women writers at a luncheon September 22. Those to be honored are authors Kay Boyle and Susan Griffin and poets Paula Gunn Allen, Ana Castillo, Lucille Clifton, and Nellie Wong. The women are noted for their writings on the topic of feminism, racism and social conscience, and each woman will read a selection of her recent works.

Paula Gunn Allen's Native American heritage provides the focus for her seven collections of poetry and her literary criticism.

Kay Boyle spent her youth in the circle of Gertrude Stein and James Joyce. She is now active in Amnesty International and her most recent novel describes her experiences, including several arrests, as a demonstrator for peace. Boyle will not be able to attend the event, but selections of her work will be read.

Ana Castillo writes primarily about the myths and realities of Chicano women. Her most recent collection of poems, *My Father was a Toltec,* deals with her childhood as the daughter of a Chicago gang member.

Lucille Clifton is a writer of children's books and poetry which reflect her experience as a black woman. Her book of poetry, "Two Headed Woman," was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1980.

Susan Griffin's groundbreaking works on feminist theory focus on women's connection to the earth and their place in today's culture.

Nellie Wong is a feminist poet who is active in the Socialist Party and union activities. Her latest collection of poetry is titled "The Death of Long Steam Lady."

Established in 1983, the foundation's goal is to empower women through philanthropy and community involvement and help all women achieve their potential. To that end, the foundation provides technical support to groups interested in applying for grants and does outreach to such nontraditional groups as homeless organizations and women in prison. Recipients of grants in San Francisco include the Lyon-Martin Clinic, the Lesbian Rights Project, and Sistah Boom.

"Women of Words" is part of a yearly Celebration of Women in the Arts. The Women's Foundation is currently planning a series of readings to be held this winter by writers such as Mae Sarton, Louise Erdrich, Annie Dillard and Margaret Atwood.

Proceeds from the "Women of Words" benefit will help fund Northern California organizations which provide services for low income women and girls.

The luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. at Le Meridien Hotel. Tickets are $50. For more information call 431-1290.

—Christina Smith

Audre Lorde

Lesbian and Gay Poetry in Our Times

Edited by Carl Morse and Joan Larkin
St. Martin's Press, 1988, 402pps. (29.95)

REVIEWED BY KENNY FRIES

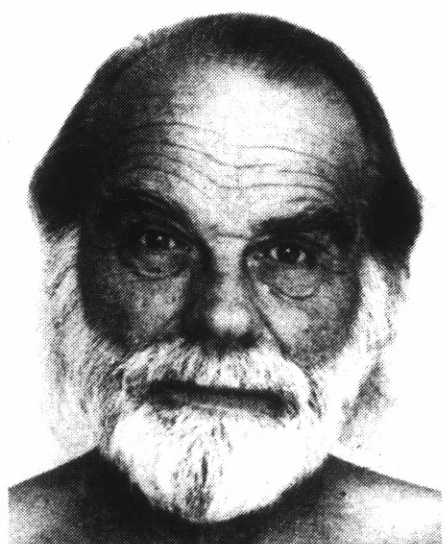
"...a poetry anthology is a map, and hence exerts a disproportionate influence: what country you end up in depends on the scope and clarity of the available charts. The best such books... have been useful not so much for their standards of 'excellence'... but for the strangeness of the territories they opened. Each proposed a multitude of directions, unanticipated seams and crosscurrents, and in so doing created possibilities for new work."

The above quoted words were written by Geoffrey O'Brien in her review of *The Morrow Anthology of Younger American Poets* in the Village Voice Literary Supplement, June, 1985. I thought about Mr. O'Brien's statement as I read *Gay and Lesbian Poetry In Our Time*. This anthology, edited by poets Carl Morse and Joan Larkin, is an important one. It is the first time a major house in this country has published a collection of poetry written by lesbians and gay men. It is also an important book because of the time in our community's history: one of crisis, a turning point. Because of these reasons this book is sure to attract a lot of attention. And because of these reasons we will read this book carefully to see if it accurately reflects our hopes and dreams, our anger and our fears — how it mirrors our lives.

There will be as many different readings of this book as there are people reading it. But one message is spoken loud and clear: We are here. And we are everywhere. And we have been here,there, and everywhere, for quite some time. Just read the biographies and that we exist as a force, literary and otherwise, cannot be denied. Literarily speaking, some of us are major literary figures of this century: W.H. Auden, Tennessee Williams, Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, Muriel Rukeyser, Robert Duncan. Some of us are the most distinguished poets of our day: Adrienne Rich, Allen Ginsberg, James Merrill, Audre Lorde, Alfred Corn, Thom Gunn, Judy Grahn, Frank Bidart. And many of the poets in this volume are the distinguished poets of tomorrow: Dennis Cooper, Cheryl Clarke, Essex Hemphill, Beatrix Gates, just to name a few. The breadth of the awards, publication histories, and credentials of the 94 poets in this book equal, and surpass, that of other noted anthologies. This alone attests to the important contribution lesbians and gay men have made, are making, and will continue to make, to the literary world. Our culture, as Carl Morse says in the introduction, is not separate — but distinct. Our culture is central. It always has been and now we have this book to prove it.

That said, so what? If we are everywhere, what do we have to say? To the world, and perhaps more importantly, to each other? What is the scope and clarity of these poems? Do they open strange territory? What unanticipated seams and crosscurrents are created in these pages? What is the possibility for our new work?

The scope of this book is very wide. *Lesbian and Gay Poetry In Our Time* includes poems by the dead and the living, by blacks, whites, Asians, Latinos and Latinas, Native Americans, Indians, the known and the unknown, the widely published and the barely published, teachers and prisoners, sons, fathers, daughters, mothers, sisters and brothers. The subjects of these poems cover almost every imaginable subject pertaining to what poet Walta Borawski calls "this odd century of horror." There are poems about wars (Edward Field's "World War II"), genocides (Irena Klepfisz's "Death Camp"), race relations (Audre Lorde's "Outlines"), public scandals (Robin Morgan's "On The Women of Watergate"), and private losses (Thom Gunn's "Lament"). Large metaphysical ideas are broached: solitude and loneliness (Adrienne Rich's "Yom Kippur 1984"), the nature of hope (Langston Hughes' "Hope"), as well as more tangible, but equally important, personal issues: family (Susan Cavin's "Christmas with



James Broughton

the Holy Family") and how lovers live (Cheryl Clarke's "Of Althea and Flaxie").

Because of this wide scope a few absences are noticed. There is not one poem in the collection dealing with physical disability. Nor is there, besides Muriel Rukeyser, lesbians from earlier in the century — the mistresses, if you will — included to balance the masters like Hughes and Auden. I miss poems by Gertrude Stein and H.D. even though they might fall outside the time frame the editors considered. (The intended inclusion of Elizabeth Bishop would have helped. Alas, her estate declined.) Also, while some of the selections of noted poets are good ones (Rich and Auden, for example), others are not (Gunn, except for "Lament," and Duncan, who is only represented by one poem). A few authors are overrepresented (Ortleb and Ameen) and some poems do not stand up in this company — too simple, poorly written or both. On the whole, however, the editors have chosen well.

Still, two issues cloud what otherwise is the clear vision of this collection. One is violence; the other sexual love. These two issues, sometimes linked together, are, of course, salient ones for artistic investigation. Too many poems, however, in this volume fall into the trap of objectification, blunting the book's impact. This is important to look at.

Morse tells us in the conversation between editors that serves as the book's introduction that he and Larkin "often talked, as they worked, about (their) concern that (they) had too many poems about violence, rape, abuse, victims." He continues: "But what we kept coming to was that these events are often the actualities of gay people's lives. Our lives are violent — that we are all too often on the receiving end of the most violent cultures ever seen on the face of the earth." This is true. One can, however, deal with the violent aspects of our lives by creating poems that illuminate and transcend these experiences. Too many of the poems included in this volume simply regurgitate the experience as ranting polemical tracts. All this does is reinscribe the harrowing hurt we have gone through keeping us inside the vicious cycle of blame. Too many times the anger overpowers the art.

Thankfully there are poems here that serve as exceptional examples of what can be accomplished when, as artists, we do not let our anger get the best of us. These poems do more than merely imitate the violence. These poems shed light.

One of these poems is Joan Larkin's "Rape." Right from the start she recreates for us a very particular experience of a particular rape. Her poem begins:

> After twenty years I want to call it that, but was it?

In one simple line the poet places the reader directly inside the conflict of the poem. Even after so much time has elapsed, the speaker still has not come to terms with her experience of violence. It has left her ambivalent, the experience not quite named. She still questions herself:

> I mean
> it wasn't all his fault, I mean...
> Didn't I circle the same block over & over until he saw me?
> Wasn't I crying when he came along & said *Don't do that, cops see me with a white girl crying* —

And later:

> Didn't I drink — what was it I drank?
> Didn't I drink enough to be numb for a long time?
> Didn't I drink myself into a blackout?

The debilitating myth of the rape victim wanting to be raped has been internalized by Larkin's victim to such an extent that she is not sure what actually transpired. These doubts are firmly placed in the reader's mind, as well. The repeated phrases "I think I remember," "I don't exactly remember," and "It may have been sort of a date," put us in direct touch with the victim's experience without telling us how to feel.

Even after the experience is over and she is back at home, the speaker is not sure exactly how she feels:

> I climbed to my place, five flights,
> somehow satisfied,
> somehow made real by the pain.

And the poem ends with the same question with which it began:

> Was it rape, then?

Obviously, it was rape. She does remember telling her assailant to stop. But by recreating the entire experience, doubts and all, by a skillful use of tone and language, as well as by humanizing the rapist "Joe," the poet does not dictate to us how we should feel. The final question the speaker asks is not asked only of herself: it dares the reader to answer the question as he or she will. We take the question away with us, along with the conflict so skillfully dramatized by the poet. Larkin has neither refused to objectify the two characters of the poem, nor the experience. Therefore the poem is able to be about rape, and at the same time about the way we remember violence.

In the introduction Larkin admits she is tuned out to many poems by gay men because they objectify, and although she identifies with much of the material written by gay men in the book she still finds much that disturbs her. Just as the anger and the rage get in the way of many of the poems concerning violence, objectification or simple celebration (sometimes both) mars many of the love poems in the book. One work where male sexual celebration is the intent is Antler's "What Every Boy Knows." Although I have admired other work by this poet, this represents how generalities and unchecked exuberance often do this talented poet in.

Compare Antler's poem with James L. White's "Making Love to Myself" and you see why. In this poem White (for whom the gay male literary journal *The James White Review* is named) goes beyond celebration and objectification, which is difficult considering how easily the subject of his poem, masturbation, can be objectified. Like Larkin, White allows us to enter his poem. He begins:

> When I do it, I remember how it was with us.
> Then my hands remember, too,
> and you're with me again, just the way it was.

He takes us from the impersonal "it," immediately softened by the verb "remember," and then physicalizes what the speaker remembers in his hands. He then conjures the absent lover for us in the third line.

The poem continues filling in the "how it was with us" of the first line with precise details from the shared past of the speaker and his former lover:

> After work when you'd come in and
> turn the TV off and sit on the edge of the bed,
> filling the room with gasoline smell from your overalls,
> trying not to wake me which you always did.

(continued on next page)

Then the lover is named for us when the speaker talks to his lover:

> Hi, Jess, you tired baby?

The speaker brings his lover back to him, and to us, through evocative and well chosen details of action, through the sense of smell, and half-asleep spoken speech. The lover rubs the speaker's belly, "just being sweet," and the stanza ends:

> and I always thought I'd die a little
> because you smelt like burnt leaves or
> woodsmoke.

The sentimental line is saved by the surprise of the line that follows.

White returns us to the initial setting of the poem:

> What a sweet gift this is,
> done with my memory, cock and hands.

If this was the start of the poem he would lose us, but by placing this after we already know who these poeple are and how they have lived together, White skillfully turns his masturbation poem into a love poem. Energized by the emotion of these lines, the poem turns to details of how the speaker has felt since his lover has left him, again physicalized in action:

> Sometimes I'd wake up wondering if I
> should fix
> coffee for us before work,
> almost thinking you're here again, almost
> seeing
> your work jacket on the chair.

In the penultimate stanza the speaker directly addresses the departed lover:

> I wonder if you remember what
> we promised when you took the job in
> Laramie?

The unfulfilled promise causes too much emotion for the speaker and in the last stanza he says:

> I just have to stop Jess.
> I just have to stop.

He interrupts his masturbation because of the painful memory. White leaves us hanging, just as the speaker is left hanging, in the middle of the emotion. We experience the poem step by step along with the speaker because the poet has humanized sex, through memory — the result being love. What better celebration of sex can there be?

There are other poems in the collection that illustrate other ways of moving through the rage we feel about past violations (one cannot help but notice how powerfully Robert Duncan uses metaphor, language, and rhythmn to turn a difficult mother-son relationship into a soaring myth in "My Mother Would be a Falconress") and there are other examples of poets refusing to objectify or generalize the sexual experience. But if the vision of this book is clouded by the inclusion of too many poems that are not written with the skill of a Joan Larkin, or a James L. White, or a Rober Duncan, the vision is clearest, not surprisingly to this reader, by the choice of including Adrienne Rich's "Twenty One Love Poems."

This choice is the heart of the book. Even in a collection including parts of major poems written during the last half of this century (Ginsberg's "Howl," Auden's "In Time of War") Rich's love poems, part of her collection *The Dream of a Common Language*, hold within them the key to understanding lesbian and gay poetry today. This choice is even more remarkable considering the many poems in which Rich is too easily swayed by her own rage into writing polemical tracts. These poems show Rich at the height of her poetical powers.

"Twenty One Love Poems" finds Rich looking and writing deeply at what she finds around her, looking for "the detail outside ourselves that brings us ourselves." She affirms that what she is looking for has been "here before us, knew we would come, and sees beyond us."

These poems simultaneously recount daily life and pose eternal questions. By exploring what it means for two women to love each other while living together in the middle of New York City, where "...screens flicker/with pornography, with science fiction vampires,/ victimized hirelings bending to the lash." It is here in this city

> we have to walk... if simply as we walk
> through the rainsoaked garbage, the tabloid
> cruelties
> of our own neighborhoods.

It is here, in these poems, that Rich begins to accept this world we must live in, this world we must choose to change by living in it. She acknowledges "our animal passion is rooted in this city."

But how do we live wihtout sacrificing ourselves, our loves, our lives? Through these poems Rich learns that

> the woman who cherished
> her suffering is dead.

She fights "the temptation to make a career of pain." she knows "only she who says/she did not choose, is the loser in the end.

What does Rich choose? She tells us that even though "two women together is a work/ nothing in civilization has made simple" and that "two people together is a work/heroic in its ordinariness." She states: "Without tenderness we are in hell."

In these lines of astonishing juxtaposition Rich lights our way: work and simple, heroic and ordinary, tenderness and hell. The most startling juxtaposition comes when she writes:

> they still control the world and you are not
> in my arms.

By refusing to break up her thought, her line, with no punctuation in its sentence, Rich suggests that we cannot control our lives or change the world if we do not love. By having our lovers in our arms we begin to control our lives.

Rich ends her sequence with a poem about darkness and light. She writes of a dark place with "a cleft of light" that rises "from beneath/the horizon," a place where "her solitude,/shared, could be chosen without loneliness." Rich, at the end of this poem, the end of the sequence, writes:

> I choose to walk here. And to draw this
> circle.

What she has found is this place where she is rooted to the world but at the same time separate. She lives in this world but also lives against this world, with her lover. She lives with her lover but also lives alone. She lives alone but chooses to do so without loneliness. She lives with, embodies, contradiction.

It is a great achievement of this book that one of those "unanticipated seams" of anthology occurs in the poems written by Rich, selected by the editors. "Twenty One Love Poems" are followed by Rich's later "Yom Kippur 1984," a far-reaching poem which further explores the meaning of separateness, of

(continued on page 68)

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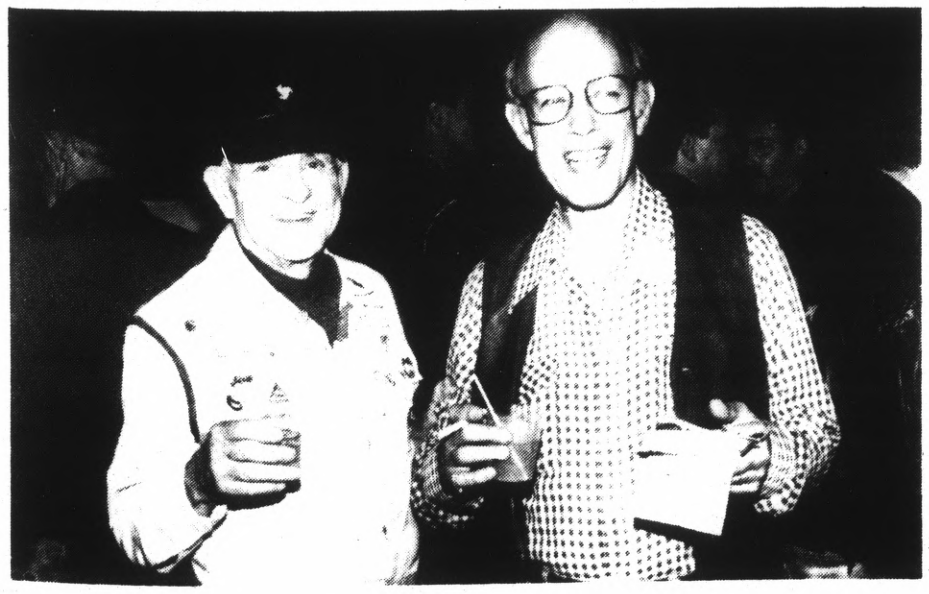
JOHNSON'S RAGG

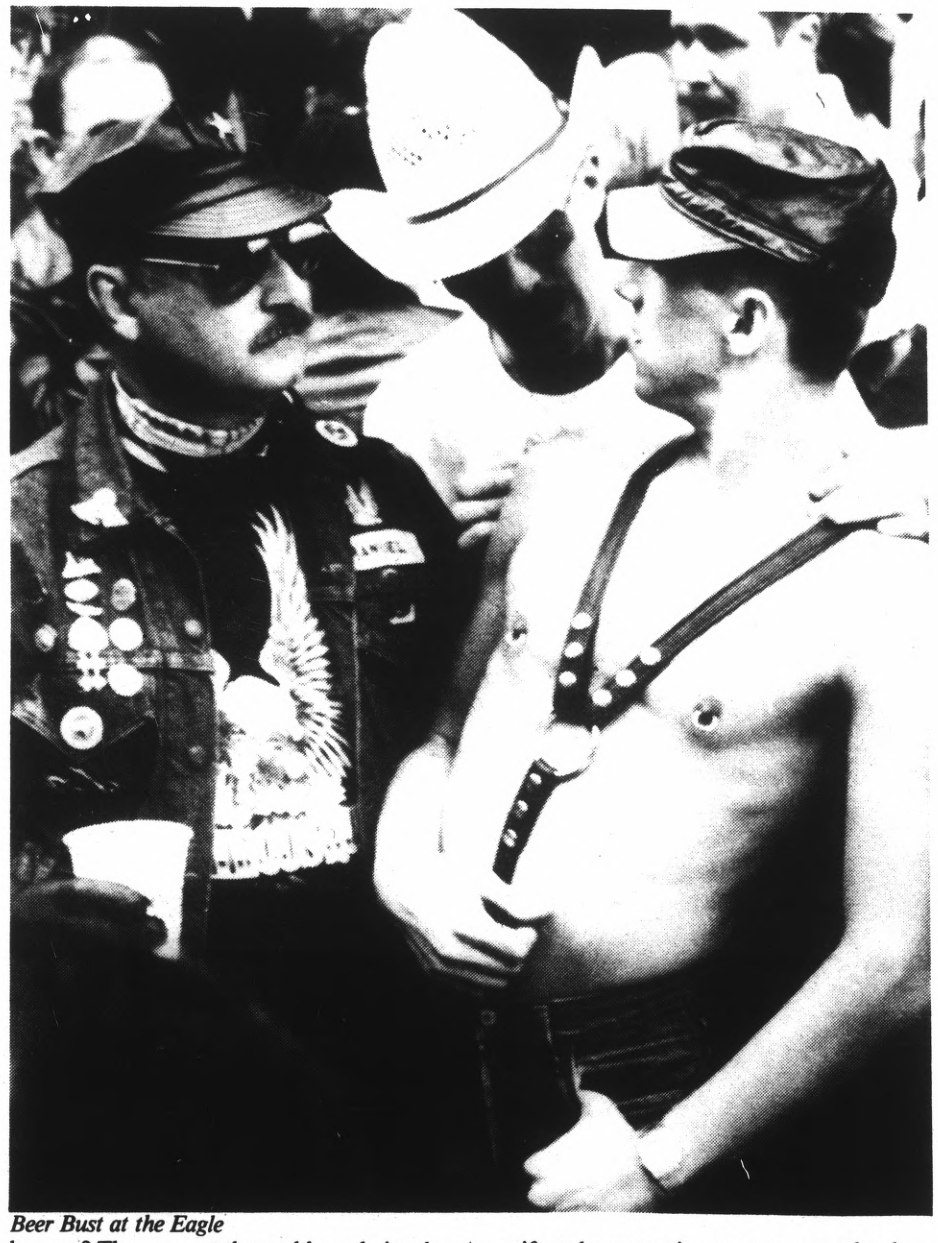
BY RANDY JOHNSON

Hey folks — guess what — I gotta job — yep (thanks to Tony P.) I'm working — who wooda ever thought? It's a Mon-Fri day job on top of it — finally! — Right Lily?... So, Mr. Bonko — I was working as the last Tavern Guild meeting was going on and your job comes first — right? — So I should be excused (not that it really matters anyway) and besides — I didn't think I had to be there as vice-president anyway — I knew Char had to — but no one told me — which, I guess, is par for the course (coarse — corse) of course — It was fun — and what is this petty bullshit concerning the elections? I understand Russ's "Gripe" but c'mon there's far too much to do than ask for a re-count — no one gets paid. Marlowe, Markola, George etc. who counted — more than once — said it was close — it makes those elected feel like shit. Everyone has feelings — try not to hurt them — Let's get on with business at hand — the picnic, membership drive, fighting AIDS — Huh?... I hear tell that J.J. Van Dyke is content, and still going with Dowager Mr. Cowboy Ed Little — After all this time too (to-two-tu-tu) — I'm glad for him. At least now we have a fighting chance to meet (meat) greet, and eat someone now that J.J.'s a working house husband....

A best ever happy 18th anniversary to Tony Palermo and his Frenchy — two (to-too) true blue friends, and thankful I am that they are. Happy belated birthday to Frenchy as well — mucho more.... Wouldn't ya know? When I mentioned Bob McPhail in my last column I was hoping he was on the upswing — no such luck — this column is dedicated, therefore, to one of the good guys — A B.C. member, a card playing chum, a fellow movie buff, and a mellow easy going friend — but — remember it's the quiet ones ya' gotta watch out for. If you got McPhail's feathers riled — honey you iz in for it, and he could dish with the best — another void in our community, as well as the B.C.'s and the m/c community. R.I.P. Bob.... A happy belated birthday to good friend and talented "gay type thang" (U can get it — finally — for 3 bux — 48 Brentwood SF 94127) or call Jon Sugar at 585-8814) and thanks for the thanks — rare my friend — how easy they usually forget — I quote Jon saying "he's calling his record forthcoming because it's taken over 4 years to forth come. — Better late than never — Hey, John — forget Doris — have a Dennis Day.... A big old hug and belated happy birthday wish to the Muni operator of this week and any other — though he's not for the weak. — Just the sleek and meek — who else but the settle-ing down Bill Settles — remember Billy Kamp — dear (deer) camp! Ask Gladys for me Billy — if she ever will give me back my boa. It's only been a few years — Come — cum Gladys mustn't be a piggy piggy!... They are all three good people — proving that it takes a man to be a woman — at the End Up (I haven't been in there since I was (after 10 years) booted out — But I still have good memories, and there is J. Brans movie. The jock strap contest lives with the Pointer Sisters of San Francisco — Tawny Gold, Dessirie, and Deena Jones. (Anyone see Lady Rona around?).... A happy 1st anniversary to a "giant" entertainer — time do (due-dew-doo-doo) fly — right Tatiana? Jolly good show — congratulations to Kimos as well.... Watch for an auction at Aunt Charlies and a get well and better wish to, Cliff — one of da good guys.... A happy anniversary to Vinnie and her/his Mr. Jones.... Good to see Don De Tonk, and Kyle from Le Salon on Larkin for "Cher"ing — good to C-U Don U look good!... I hope that this finds Mars' father in good health in (why-o et...) Ohio.... One of the main reasons I wanted to go on my club — the Barbary Coasters run — is to see friends I haven't seen for far too long — like Alan and Charlie — I miss U-2 — Also to thank, in person, Chuck and Jason, for their concern — Oh ho! So it's off to Hawaii izzit? For Anthony and Rowbottom — Here's hoping they get lei'd!... Isn't there two sides to every story? Until things are straightened out, and pretty much in order — I'll keep an open mind, and will not desert, condem, or ignore Cappi Patterson — friends are not always for the good times — friends should let themselves be visible during the ruff ones as well....

OK — Will someone offer a reasonable explanation? I don't mean to bitch, moan, or complain, and I can cope, and there are other alternatives (although I do (dew-due) miss 'em) but why us? Why does the gay capital of the world not have a baths? The precendent we were supposed to make, by closing them, as well as after hour places, and private clubs went out the window! No city followed suit! Why haven't the straight places been closed? That commercial with this chick saying she likes them — to relax, or whatever in private rooms with a suana, shower, and hot tub — how many guests does she have? Have you noticed the hookers too? Lordy — they're taking over — while we get hassled cruisin after 2 am, and no hustling, these women, and men who wish they were, are charging — and by the looks of most of them — they should be paying — have you really looked at them — And the same goes for the Twinkie hustlers who for the most part, must be starving and tell them they should wash themselves, as well as their clothes. OK — Am I right in assuming our tubs closed mainly because our jurisdiction is a bit more demanding? and Berkeley, San Jose, Los Angeles — amongst others roll merrily along — don't cha think that if, by now, baths were a major cause of AIDS, that all of them, cross country would have been closed long ago? And by now? They are not the problem obviously — and could very well be part of the solution. Some pluses that they offer: sure showers, rubbers, steam, they kept us off the streets, most, if not all, were kept clean, and you could see that they were properly maintained. I know that not everyone liked them, and were for them to be closed — But (butt) just as many people were for them, went to them, and wanted them to remain open — I was and probably still am a tubs freak. There are worse things! So is that it? No more gay tubs? But it's OK not to hassle or close the straight ones — oh no ya' don't — if you're using AIDS as an excuse or reason — remember it's not just a gay disease, it never even started out as such — I smell discrimination





Beer Bust at the Eagle

— Some more people I haven't seen in a while — here's hoping that all is well with them Jimmy Coles; Lou Green; Matt Morano; Douglas Dean; Monte Reddick, Richard Novak; Papa Joe Roland, Jack South, Cowgirl Cathy; Larry Moser and his better half, Leggs from the Grape, amongst others — Where are you? — Rik — Tony L.'s roommate you know him (End Up — the P.S. — Alamo Square — amongst others) is now with Betty and Frederick A. Bartos doing simply "fab graphic Design.... Sept 13 is the next Tavern Guild meeting — at the Santa Rosa Inn, then to Scandels on Sept. 27. — What you say mate?... It's the knees bees that we will soon know who are the 3 B's.... Sorry Bonko — I didn't see the newsletter until it was too late — Sort of like the Doom Flume Picnic — right Carrot Top?... Coronation 976 plus 2 bux is gonna rock your shakey quake — fer shore!... Thank you Willie Brown for your swift reply concerning your resources book — which is quite handy to have — appreciated hearing from you. Ran into Kyle Ye olde Redhead the other week. Had a nice short chat, and it was nice of him to tell me people ask about me, as they haven't seen me — although he didn't say how many — and Kyle take care of your injured hand — use the other one!... My royal imperial cousin — Gardner (a 1/3 of the big 3) who is from the Castro Lions is having it out, I hear tell, with Arthur Itus — be gone with Arthur — hope all is well, Gardner....

Bummer time — there's just no escaping — A so long to someone I knew in Chicago a long — long time ago (in a galaxy far far away) (right Terry Tramp-ee-yets!?) our man of the trophies/plaques, and softball, amongst other hobbies and social endeavors. He was going to give a Chicago party in the near future. He kept himself himself busy and dizzy. Jay Platt — "Golda" — a personality in our town has relinquished and is suffering no more — that's good! That he is no longer here — that's bad!... Sadly — there's another loss — and if it wasn't for John McCullum I wouldn't have known — I didn't even know he was under the weather — (I've got to get a phone) — Armondo (He was one of us) (and very down to earth). He who was one of the personalities to put Walgreen's on the map, as well as telling us, a week in advance, what the up 'n coming specials were going to be (2-B or knot too bee...) He was, along with his co-worker — (or should that be co-hort?) the mightly Micky — (How ya feeling?) A bartender's dream — He drank (sometimes — lots) — but get this, he tipped as well — lots — but only if he had it.

It really wasn't always necessary to do so. And he apologized when he could not. Armando was someone who lit up a room when he entered. He said what he thought, and really laid it on the line. Shocked I was to learn that Armando left us. What fun memories of this good guy I have, and you must have as well. Another meteor crashes — and his light is shining elsewhere — but it sure is a lot darker here. It was good to know you Armando — thanx for the good times, and for the memories, peace to you.... There'll be less music from now on, as the notes went flat the day Chuck Waltz decided to depart this life — to his next level. Condolences to his many friends and family, and to Dick Eckert especially — good memories I have of him, and glad I am to have known him.... You're welcome and thanx — and hope all is well with Rick Manring, and Michael Russo — nice note — keep in touch!... Sorry 2 hear by friend from the Community Thrift Store — Doug Taylor is no longer there — (an end of an era?) Ah! Vic Galvin's still there (Hello!) as is Mark. Hey Doug F-C-shit — Howdy! Let's get Rowdy! Hope all iz well!... Al St. Clair is back at the new-new Belle Saloon on Sutter on week-ends — for weak ends!... Can you believe the cast of the up 'n coming flick "steel magnolias"? Olympia Dukakis, Sally Field, Dolly Parton, Shirley Maclaine, and Jessica Lange!...

The following is from 1975 — what it says is what we all must've felt when we lost a dear friend. Both parties are gone — but if you knew them (Black Jack and Roberto) you couldn't help but to love them: Bobby Rodriguez 1938-1975 In Memoriam — 26 November 1975 — Randy, Dear One: Here is a short memorial to dear Bobby. You and he were close friends and I have been so despondent and devastated at his passing that I am not sure my alleged mind is working right so I would like to have you go over it and make any comments, suggestions or criticisms. Thank you so very much. Bobby's passing just reminds me all the more how much I care for friends like you. Blackjack — Bobby Rodriguez 1938-1975 — In Memoriam — Gee! Bobby! I miss you so. I loved you, you little runt and I called you that even though it may not have been a nice name. I first met Bobby when he was a customer at a gay bar where I worked for Tony Lasagne. Tony and I liked all our cutomers but Bobby was special. If Tony got busy, I'd try to help him out and when I looked, Bobby would be doing my work. Then, he came to work with us and we became close friends. I loved him with a warm, brotherly love for the kind of guy he was. In all the time I knew Bobby, he never told me anything malicious or evil about anyone. You know, in our circle, it is so easy and so commonplace to plant a small harpoon into the back of someone we know. Bobby never resorted to that. He was never too well physically although he ran that plank dispensing drinks and laughter. As often as possible, I'd see him around shift change time so I could lift the heavy ice cube receptacles and fill the bins for him. Now, I regret that I didn't do it more. We worked different shifts and I often found myself waiting around for him to come to work. When I could wait, I'd leave crazy notes for him in his tip glass just to make him laugh. Sometimes I'd wait for him when he got off work and we'd have a difficult time getting away because so many who loved him wanted to buy him a drink. We'd walk up Polk Street then, usually with half a heat on, and we'd yell and scream and harrass the pedestrians, and go into stores causing the owners to have near apoplexy, but always good-natured and never with malice. Gee! Bobby! I miss you so. I visited him on his gig about three weeks before he left us and, even though he was busy, we had some fun and laughs. I will not attend his funeral — not because I love him less — but because I love him more. I want to hold him in my mind the last way I saw him. I've been told that Bobby would have been a vegetable if he'd lived because of the brain damage from the blood clot. I would not have wanted that and I know Bobby wouldn't. I can hear Bobby whispering to me, "It wouldn't be so bad to be a fruit, but never a vegetable." Gee! Bobby! I miss you so. May your dear sweet sould rest in peace! — Blackjack — That about says it all — doesn't it? Yes, I agree — It's beautiful!...

Help is there — if you need it — for women, men, and even children — for those that aren't wealthy — that are hungary, or for those who have nowhere else to turn to — you're all in luck. This is for everyone. If you're afflicted. Call, go to and check out resources — a wonderful Godsend, and not a mirage! Too good to be true? — Yes — but there it is at 597 Hayes @ Laguna — It's for real! So are the volunteers and staff — the project administrator William Baker; the financial controller — Mr. Keith Ray; the director — William Kane; the project director woman's clothing closet and children's — a first in the land to help women w/AIDS/ARC — Carrie Hunter; the lady in red — Naomi; and Donald Chamberlain — a good group — nice people: Resources (597 Hayes — 626-3560) for people with AIDS and ARC, who desperately need pantry items — (food that can be stored on shelves) they have a VCR tape plan, books, records (hey I've got some albums for you — as a donation from the manager of the Community Thrift Store — Mark, and myself) — If they need it — Resources has got it. All gifts are tax deductible — and volunteers are always welcome. A bag of food is always good — But a cash donation goes even farther — as they go out and purchase the food wholesale — so for approxiamtely $20.00 they can get around 20 good sized bags of food — they have quarterly reports to let you know where your donations went, and the books are there for you to see. Receipts are yours as well for the asking. As you can tell — it's all above board. The reason they're there — the bottom line is to help, give a little dignity, and happiness to those less fortunate. They have housing referrals as well — so you see it is a supermarket of help. On Sept 11th at noon (a Sunday) at Lang Field at Gough and Turk — with — amongst others, Gail Wilson, Vinnie Russell, our Empress Lily and Emperor Steve is a softball challenge — admission to see entertainers vs. Powder Puffs vs. G.S.L. Allstars vs. Bowltrons is a bag of groceries — this is for Resources — and as an extra added attraction Lily and Steve will be umpires — cute — throw da bum out! Go!... Who said Cash and Carrie! Cute!...

Welcome from New York — to S.F. Tom S. and a happy birthday to your budy in the east — I hear Chuckles is now in Denver — it figures aways high to a mile high!... Attn: Tony Lasagne — I've been trying to connect with you — why I even called the Cinch and wad-do-you-know Tony Lasagne does not (knot) work here any longer — clue me in — want to see you — soon! Kabish! End of rap!... It's good to see Bob who is a "pip" of a chap doing well at P.I.P. on Taylor. He's the culprit who introduced me to the bike clubs. Ah! Remember that butch brunch? By the San

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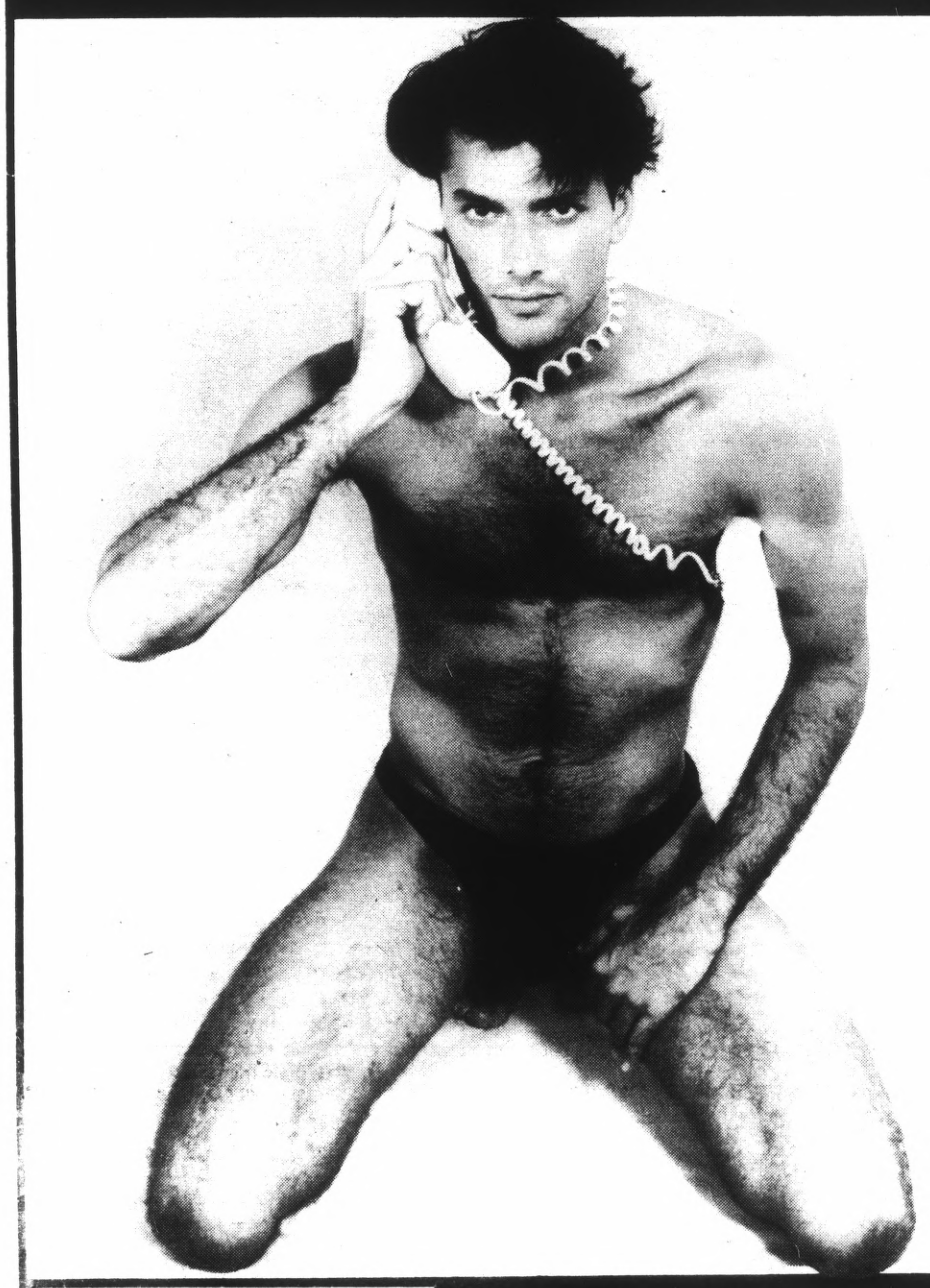

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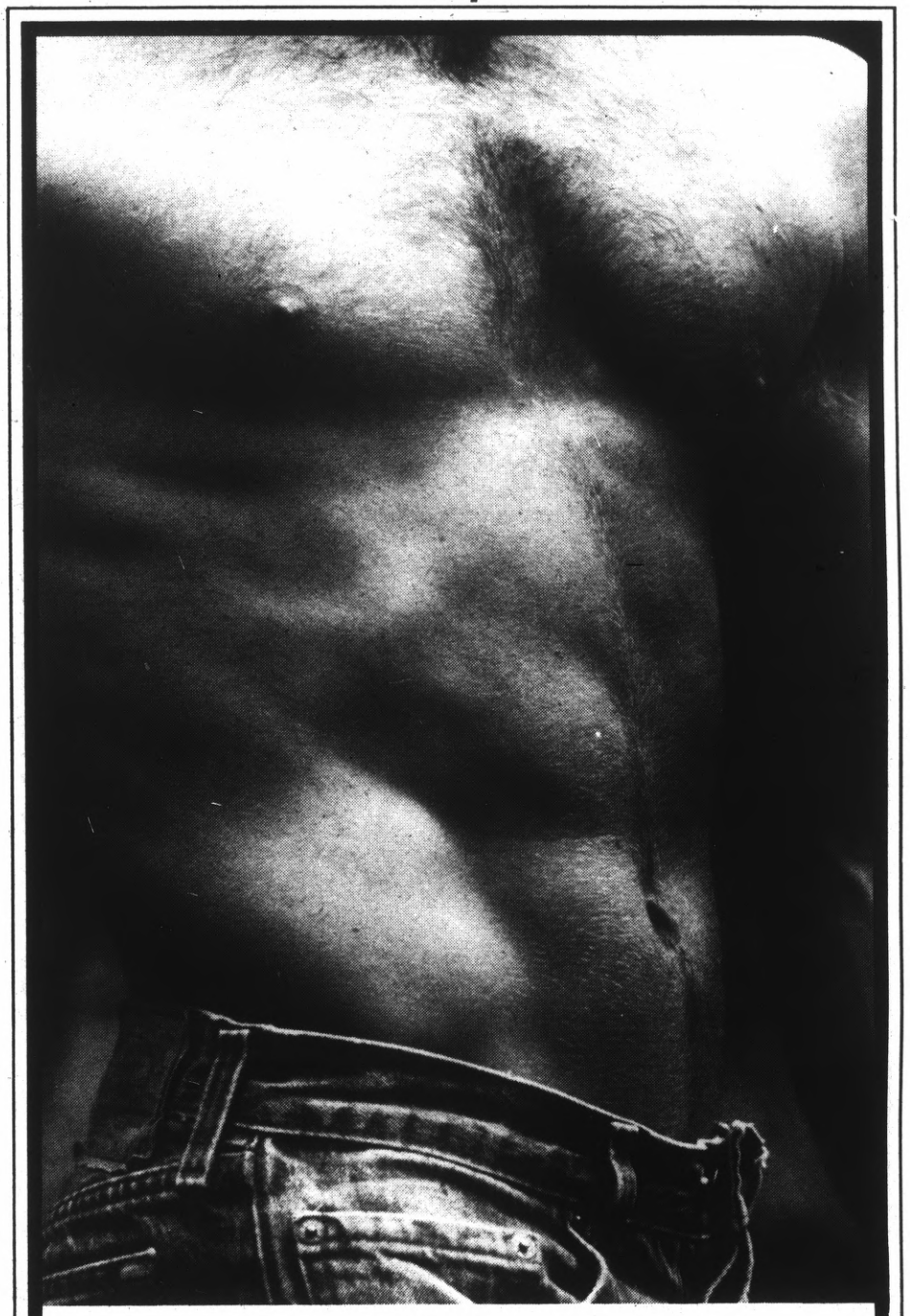
Franciscans m/c? A great time!... A, you'd better get back in the pink and a great fundraiser at Uncle Berts for the quiet, demure, and infamous Steve Cook — stick around Hut?... From Billy West I get this: Randy, Well, Sunny Beachs, Here is some pool info at last. And thank you in advance. The spring season ended about a month ago. It ended with Billy West's killer beeezz in the final four, ending up 3rd. The final match for the beeezz was against two time city champs, Wt. Swallow. It was a match to see! Game #1 Beeezz 9-8. Game #2. Swallow 9-5 & the 3rd game, Swallow 9-8. Well done beeezz; Richard Pearson, Gino Smith, Rod Cohan, Sam Bridgers, Royal, & Captain Billy West. The Beeezz are back at the Cinch along with the Saddle Tramps. — Just think of this; San Francisco has two — count 'em folks — 2 Phyllis Dillers in town, and I swear that Mr. Van Dyke does a better Diller than she — see?...

Along with a select group, and since J.J. is my imperial sister (our father was Russ II) we went to "Nunsense" eon the 31st more on this in the next column — but I can wish his better half, Dowager Cowboy Ed a happy belated birthday.... As hopefully was my name sakes Randy Humphries from the streets and S.F. Eagle — mucho more.... That's from Lily as well Randy.

There was 2 good birthdaze last August 18th. They surprized (a hard thing to do) Richard at the Wooden Horse (Right Margo?) for his birthday and am happy to report the bar was paired — So thanx to the mgt. and staff — you done good — Richard's shirts is really nice — the balloons coming out of the basement was a mind blower. Hey Kevin, by the way, my clock keeps right on a tickin. It was a fun night.... As was Chars (Chuck — Chaz) et al birthday at the ever lovin' Kokpit — many more to ya' honey....I wonder what Bobby Callocoates secret is? He looks the same — he's welcome back any ole time. I know let's ask Reba — she'll know.... Thanks to Chuck Bayles — I get this — "Western Star Dancers, a San Francisco based square dance club for gay men, lesbians, and their friends, announces its beginning level fall classes. The 15 week course meets every Monday evening from 8:15-10:15 p.m., at the Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Avenue, the first three weeks are free, introductory sessions; the total costs is only $40.00. Classes begin September 12th. Come dance with us for a social, energetic, and healthy experience. For further information, contact James Ozanich (415/861-5689) or Anna Damiani (415/621-0862)." I'm going to join — Y knot U? Good luck and thanx Jason, Western Star Dancers office is at 584 Castro #480-864-6134....

Robert church is returning to bartending at the Polk Gulch Saloon — his return is being partied in at ate pee am on Sept. 1st at the Gulch. Welcome back, let's go to church.... Congratulations to Jay (Ethyl) Noonan — who at the Grubstake II — (A good place to chew — the fat — food — or whatever) is now the big cheese — Good! More power 2-ya!The Circle J has been doing a few improvements for us, for instance, hours have improved as they open 1 hr earlier, and close an hour later.



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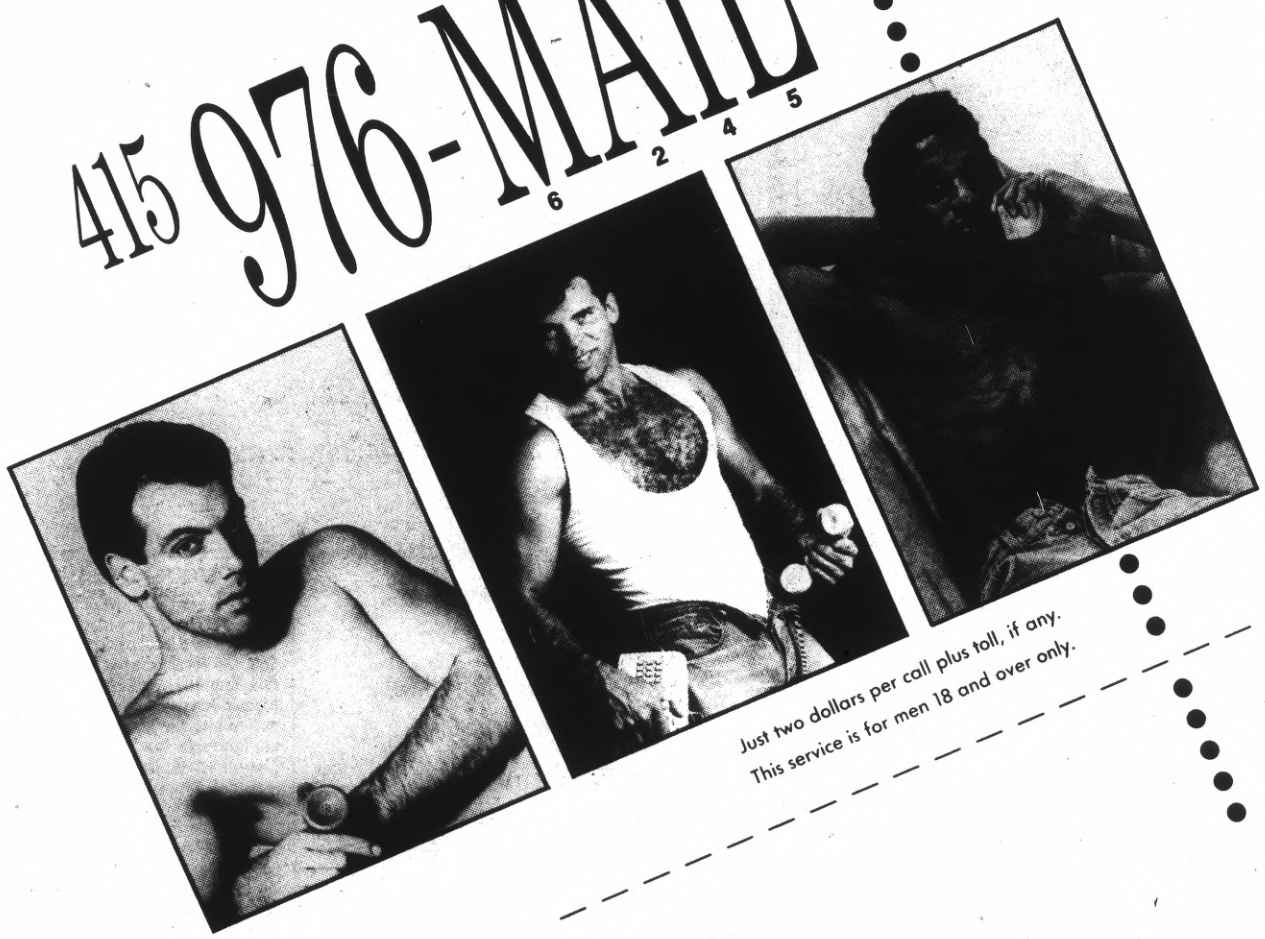

Just two dollars per call plus toll, if any.
This service is for men 18 and over only.

The new hours — 7 daze a weak! are 10 am to midnite — dat's a good — also good is they now have 3 screens 1) 1st run; 2) JO films and 3) classic blues (blews?) Programs change Sundaze and Thursdays to be there sign in for $5 admission and a buck for membership — and be 21! — OK? OK!... I'm glad Vanessa is watching over us. And Teresa's foot has improved. And that Alan is back at Theresa's (soon to be remodeled) restaurant at 18th and Valencia, and Mary is letting the blonde (or is that silver?) grow out on the sides — If I didn't go there once a week — I'd be lost — I mean it!... You mean Dolly Dale and myself went through all that on election day just so you could resign? Oh no! First of all no one listens to petty bullshit gossip — 2nd of all, Chuck — you've been around and through worse scandels, and you have to admit it keeps one on their toes, as well as her friends — Well let's put it this way — You're being talked about — some good — some bad. But those in the know — know — you know? Remember voting day flame? I do. You were really in a fit thinking you didn't win. But cha did Blanche Ya' did. And besides I haven't heard or seen (scene) from Mike and Bruce in awhile, this gives us an excuse to keep in touch with each other. Life's too short (more true now than before). No one has lost any credentials, nor have they favorably gained any friends. Unity should be the thing. You three have been around a while. There's really no big deal. Scandal can be beneficial if you know how to go about using it. A little pride, and rising above it are two of the keys. I mean, think, look back. Remember top personalities? Emperors? There's been worse — then, poof, it's over and forgotten just as fast as it started! We've all been there and no one — Yes no one is perfect....

Proud (a good word) we all should be! Welcome home to: congratulations to: and thanx to the volunteers: what else? The Names Quilt!... Patsy Recline from Diva Records on 9th St., a couple of weeks ago, around midnight walks out of his business and smack dab into a dead woman who was beaten — within 15 minutes they caught the dude! — Bummer — but thanx to Patsy and the police for their quick action!... I fell into a burning ring of fire (I) he went down — down — down etc., etc.... The best of Hollywood comes to S.F., South of Market. Stud Video/(the legit name is City Entertainment, Inc @ 960 Folsom has a wide selection of all kinds of videos. They offer a video membership, they have VCR rentals — and they can special order 4 U. — Yes, the playground to the stars iz da place 2 go.... ain't that right Sammee!... Right!... On the Playgirls' album — not it's not Tony Palermo, or Lobeni, or J.J. Van Dyke or (who was the 4th?) Ah! my seester Larisse (Hope you're feeling better) it is Connie Russel, Julie Wilson, Kaye Stevens and Cara (Pete and Gladys) Williams — the producer? Jackie Barnett a great album — A classic collecters item it is now by the way.... Richard Harry is — hairy! — with his moustache and beard which look good!... I love the ad for Charpe's the new inn-inn place (go Charlotte) (Ye olde Teddy Bears) the place looks wonderful — the ad says enter through Lily St! — Naw, they couldn't mean our empress — could they — hey Steve, do (due-dew) U no wear y'ur wife iz?... A feather in your caps (or hair) to Burke Ray, Duane Fortier (one of my best customers a while back in the Castro) and my ex-boss (still a friend) Freddie (Fud Pucker) Skau (Hook and ladder) on being cover boys in the July 20-27 Bay Area Guardian — Right on.

Attn: Donald Cameron Scott — Your letter in the B.A.R. was a wake-up and who-ever in the next generation takes "our place" had better wake up and how!... The we need a good laugh (or at least a smile) department.... Graffitti is a kamp for instance! The world is your oyster — so eat it; or you are fast becoming what you're going to be, reality is good sometimes, for kicks — but, don't let it get you down — and short and to the point — fuck hate.... There's a stupid law in San Francisco banning picking up used confetti to throw

again — now you can sleep well knowing that. And this — on Sept 7th writer Valarie Taylor (née Velma Tate) author of Love Image, was born in Aurora, Illinois (my hometown) in 1913....Did you know? (Now you will!) that Tony Lasagne is at the Yacht club?... That J.J. Van Dyke is in the Francis Ford Coppala movie "Tucker"?... 6 mos away goes purty quickly — so be fair warned. At Lily and Steve's coronation (976) from 6 pm-7 pm — is set aside for table decorations? Do it yourself — should be a kamp to see!... That Randy's wired rolling papers are still the best? And it's patented in the USA? Canada? France, Britain, and Spain (Good name, huh?)... that Lily lunch bucket is doing it at Chick 'n' Chips — 305 Turk — 441-2710 - Next to the Kokpit (Flame is remodeling the Turk and Leavenworth landmark) they have delivery, catering and specials. If you don't like chicken — fear not - they have steak, burgers, and the like — which is what I think you'll do — like it — Try it you'll like it.... That the Jaguar is back? AT 4057 18th St — and welcome home.... Todd Grabow, a great art-eest — He did the Tavern Guild logo — is now a Barbary Coaster m/c member?... That Jim Awalt at his deserved fundraiser at the Gold Room won a haircut?... That Hank Irons co. who has proved that original designs — yours — doens't cost an arm and a leg (he did most of febe's collecters items) is 25 yrs in the business?... That the cheaters m/c had their bike evenings last Aug 13 — (They had to have 'em to qualify for the BC awards) But I heard their campsite was really beautiful!... That the 222 club is now the name of Deja Vu — Railray express — Logans et. al.?... That the world famous (now) author — Randy Shilts is from hometown of Aurora, Illinois — He say west high — me say east high — Did you know that the famous eye specialist is as well? Yep Denis Franck is from Aurora as well! — A good place 2 B from! or to raise a family!...

I saw you Kenny Morgan on the bus — Good 2-C-U... John Warren — my seester meester is lookin' fine — and still doin-it-to-it-alright!... I know I've not been too active lately — but it's like my friend Chuck (Hi Carla) (Congratulations Lady J — well done) the go getter in Oakland/Alameda (emperor/empress — star mixologist — amongst other things) says I'm getting older — wanna relax? — me too! — get all the lifts and tucks you want — inside — you're still getting older. But I'm glad I went to Sables tribute (deserved) if it were the other way around, I know she'd have been there for me. How nice to see so many people show up for her. The vibes were good. Sights scene: my ex-wife La-La Dahrling — kish the empress of Sacramento — Looking very kishmasly — Rita come home.... Good to see LaRisse on the arm of the S.F.G.O.I.'s Presdient looking good, and acting very cheerfully — my dike sister is stubborn enough between her ups 'n downs to get mad, and being a fighter LaRisse is going to lick her problem — besides she has seven — count 'em folks — seven numbers in Mindksy's (Hey Bill, how come you only have six? — And you're the President?) which is going to be directed by Lee Raymond.... Good to see Kitty Litter (Kenny) a good ole girl.... Gladys and her Keith McBumps looked happy.... Diamond John (my protogee — even though he's older than I) was there. But then again he's everywhere.... Helen Trent — he being from the Kokpit was in rare form — he's one of us — who lays it on the line — Good, bad, or indifferent. And good 4 hymn.... Desiree was looking, and performing as we expect her to. She's never a let down.... Don Rogers was there.... So was Ron Huberman.... Steve and Stephanie Miller looked well, Polly Polaroid — Who'll outlast us all — was there. She sure deserves some sort of a tribute for being our friend — thru thick 'n thin.... Pat Montclaire — looked flawless. And she and Jerry glittered, as did Pat's better half — my buddy David — now at Welcome Home on Castro — and Candi — Del-Rey — who's busy planning Candi's manufacturing — And she's official now as she is listed!... Good to see my imperial cousin Horst.... Kevi — the empress of Modesto looked great!... Tessie lives — but that was Roxie Hart (Hi Dick — love ya' cuz) Roxie is one of those feel good people who make you feel good.... Bobby Pace was there and he roped me into being one of his auctioneers — for him — I'll do it.... Rags iz coming — Raggs is coming — bout time— the 1st of the year — a nice way to begin it with his welcome addition to San Francisco — he looks wonderful by the way — and I hope no-one heard the 3 r's — (Rink — Rags — Randy) conversations that night. But your ears must've been burning!... Lily and Steve were there — (Lily's number "somewhere" was touching and meaningful).... Others seen — Randy B. Goode, President Lexona, Larry Eppinette, Ginger, Bob Cramer, Jason Fontaine, Sissy & Ken, and Jackie from Reno — A content night — thanx to all who had anything to do with it! — And Trixi you iz lookin' good hon-eee — Ya' hear me?...

I get this message from R.B.G: Ivy for Grand Duchess '88-89. Although Jose "Mother" surprized us all at Sable's benefit coming through the fire exit escorted by emperor Rasher, and again didn't Flame give a good speech, speech, speech?... Yep pushy is Big D's campaign manager for G.D.... at Turk St. News, after Sable's function. I wanted to disappear and, well — U no. — No such luck — Who do I run into? — Numero uno — southern scandals himself! One never knows — do one?... Dear Randy, Great to hear you've got a job — when will you get a phone? Good seeing you at Sable's affair. September is coming up fast. — Some birthdays are: Sept. 3 — David Robinson of the SFGDI's, Sept. 5— Bobby Pace's 52nd birthday emperor IX A.N., Sept. 6 — Al Simpson of J. Paul Scott's fame, Sept 7. — Calif. Admission Day, Sept. 9 — Pushy Phyllis (Empress 16), Sept. 15 — Jim Camouse (SFGDI) and Patsy Cline, Sept. 19 — Michael Hass (Mr. 1988 Tavern Guild, hopefully), Sept. 25 — Patrick McGonigle & Emperor XV A.N.

Some events to be aware of: Labor Day weekend Sept 2, 3, 4, 5th — Cyclerunners annual bike run, Alaska coronation — fun with char & Horst, Sept. 6 — SFGDI general mtg 8pm Chez Mollett, Sept 10th — Grand Ducal voting day, Sept 10th — Ms. Haight/Ashbury pageant @ Great American Music Hall, Watch Cobalt (balloon Girl) "give up" her title, On Sept 9th at the Kokpit Bobby Pace and Pushy Phyllis at 8 pm presents an auction for Tessies senior luncheons, Sept. 10 — LaRisse, Lady in waiting to Empress Lily Street is cohosting with her, a benefit for ICF at the Eagle @ 7 pm till around Tenish. Details to be announced. Sept 11th — Reverse Raffle Softball — benefit for Resources — 12 noon at Long Field. Sept. 12th — Empress council mtg at Sable's home, which is located in the 200 block of Lily Street. Sept. 13th — Imperial Court of the Stokey Quake Empire mtg at 7:30 pm at Amelia's. Sept. 17th — Grand Ducal Ball at the San Franciscan who will provide the "speak," or "flicker" to replace a flame?

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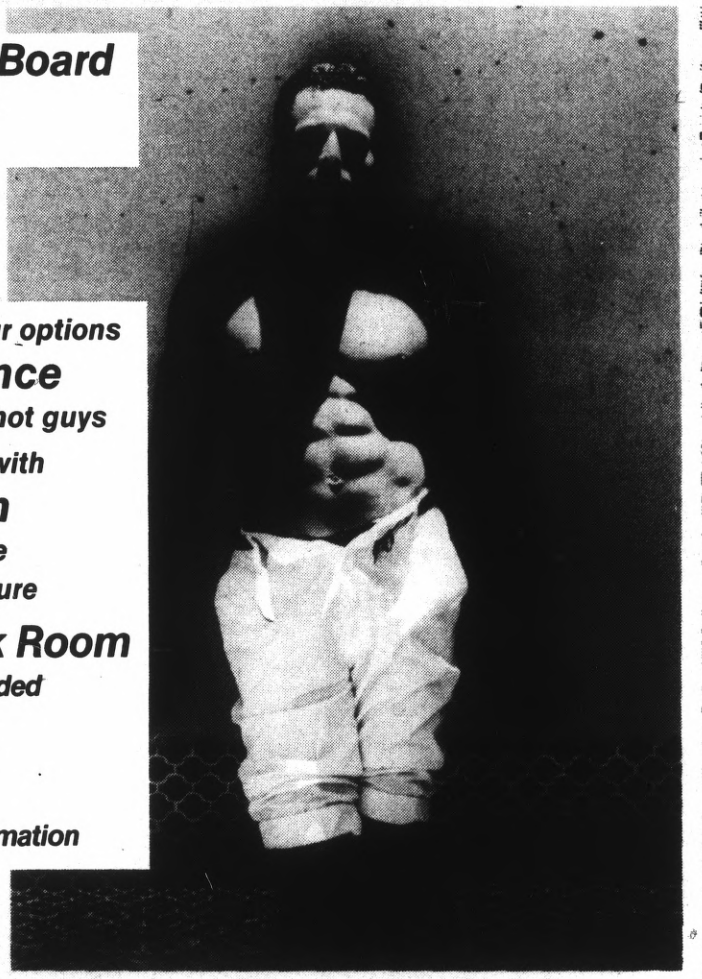

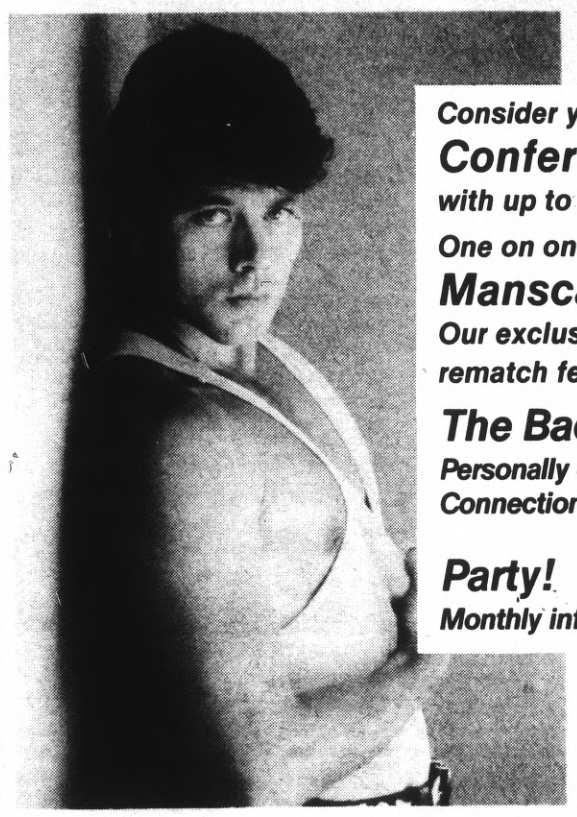

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(continued from previous page)

Sept. 18th — Tavern Guild picnic — looks like a sellout this year. Sept. 21st — Emperor Steve's "Boys Nite Out" at the Polk Gulch 8 pm.Sept. 24th — Alameda coronation. Sept. 25th — Folsom St. Fair, produced by Michail Vallaire (where's the cobra?) Last weekend (Sept. 30th) — Golden Gate Guards run "Folsom Phantoms and Fantasies" in Mendocino Co. — Santa Monica coronation. They also have the Clio awards around the 22nd at the Palace of Fine Arts but who has time to watch TV. Unless it's E.T.VC. on Sept 29th at Chez Mollett. 8 pm.

Over ten thousand was raised for Sable on Aug 20th — a good turnout, a good time and a good outcome. No one could deny what a true friend to Sable Ken Wright showed by working his tail off to insure her successful benefit. Matthew Brown also. She has two good "husbands of state" as a Grand Duke and Emperor. — Bye for now, Lily Street Happy birthday to Verna May.... Plan ahead, Oct. 14, 15 & 16 Oktober Fest at the White Swallow.... Yes, that was Jerry Jay at S.F. General where (she, oops he) raved about the food — and no, he didn't have a baby — his legs acted up — again — Jon Jon is still acting up!... You did hear about Jerry getting stuck in the bathtub? That cheap vodka gets to you. Too mucking fuch!... watch for a few new faces on the board of the Cable Car Awards. February is right around the corner y'know.... Indeed Vindeed, hi Tom, and thanks for the kind words to my boss — a hot lady, Vicki (her outfits are perfect) and she's got some crazy friends — like Teresa from Santa Cruz whom, when I answered the phone with a "may I help you?" she repleid "I hope so — I need a lobotomy, or maybe a bottle in front of me" — 30 seconds of silence, then a hearty laugh I gave — can't wait to meet her — but in the interim if you're looking for an answering service offering what you want and need look at direct connection at 7005 Market @ 6th ST. #207-864-3000. U want it (pagers? mail service? phone #'s? check us out Vicki — the owner iz hot — Congratulations to her baby #1 — That's great! A showdog — beautiful the creme de la creme — and they earned it.... Twice in a weak — week — Didn't I run into my old pal (and one of the best writers around!) Andre? — you're OK Karyl — you're still goofy!...Remember: Life threatening phone calls — get you nowhere.... Sept. 7 is Richard (Shaft) Roundtree's birthday as well as John Phillip Laws.... They're right with it — or did you know the Zero Population Growth Foundation of Washington D.C. has designated Feb. 14 (Valentines Day) as "love carefully day" and distributed Valentine cards emblazoned with red condoms — I'm joining!... Food 4 thought: the man who can smile when things go wrong — has thought of someone he can blame it on — smile!... Also, remember: sex doesn't count when you don't use your hands — or, remain asleep!... A moment of truth is knowing you don't like to look in a three way mirror anymore — oh well! — Hey you — Yeh you! — Take care out there — Hear?

Moses...

(continued from page 45)

have not had the opportunity frequently to have first class entertainment that has to do with us."

Miriam Moses studied music at the New York Conservatory of Music in Carnegie Hall, and has been writing for theatre, ballet and film since 1970. A native New Yorker, she wrote her first musical when she was 20 years old and served as Composer in Residence at the Colonnades Theatre Lab. That musical, *Reflections*, ran for four consecutive seasons.

"I do not consider myself a political writer at all. Other people may find something political in what I do, but I'm here to say 'this is how it feels.' If you're a politician, I suggest you go and make a few laws if this show has communicated anything to you. There would be nothing nicer than to not ever have to do a show like this. When human relationships can become the subject matter of a show without one sect of those relationships being separated out for all of society's particular fears and prejudices — that's what we're working towards. I'm just talking about how it feels; and if my ability to communicate that to you comes through, hopefully you will do something. One voice moving another spirit — one spirit moving another spirit to act."

Poetry...

(continued from page 62)

solitude. We can read this later poem and see where Rich's life and writing has led her a decade after she wrote the love poems.

And as luck would have it in a book arranged alphabetically by author, Rich's poems are followed by poems by Muriel Rukeyser. This seam (it would have been a seam more neatly stitched if Rukeyser preceded Rich) is quite illuminating, because after encountering Rich we read Rukeyser's "The Speed of Darkness," in which she is

> thinking of the poet
> yet unborn in this dark
> who will be the throat of these hours.
> No. Of those hours.
> Who will speak these days,
> if not I,
> if not you?

It is as if Rich has heard Rukeyser (maybe she did?) — a woman sixteen years older than she. It is as if Rukeyser, a model for Rich in her political activity to be sure, but a woman whose love was not as well-lit (indeed, Rukeyser's inclusion in this book will surprise many), passes the torch to her younger colleague within these pages. How lucky we are that Rich has taken up the task of speaking these days and lighting our way.

There are other seams, as well. Some of form (the mock-interrogation that is part of Judy Grahn's "A Woman is Talking To Death" and the elegiacal interrogation in the first part of Frank Bidart's excruciating "Confessional"). Some of subject (the mother-son relationship, in different takes in the Bidart, in the previously mentioned Duncan, and in the excerpt from Ginsberg's "Kaddish"). Some poems whose meaning is decoded or broadened by inclusion in a lesbian and gay anthology (Hughes' famous "Hope" and Rukeyser's ironic "St. Roach"). And the territory is often strange (Clarke's "palm leaf of Mary Magdalene," just one example).

In what country does this leave us?

A more populous one. Because of encountering them in this book I will search out the work of David Bergman and Daryl Hine, whose "Blueberry Man" and excerpt from "March," respectively, are highlights. Also, I look forward to wider publication and the further development of poets such as Cheryl Clarke, Beatrix Gates, and Essex Hemphill. This book will surely widen the audience of contemporary masters Frank Bidart and Joan Larkin.

A country with no borders. We cross borders. Sometimes painfully, like Audre Lorde's interracial couple of "Outlines," "whose guilt wove through quarrels like barbed wire." We cross borders. We are lesbians and gays, sharing what Judy Grahn has called a commn difference, but we are also Jewish, Chicano, Native American, black, owning class, working class, rich and poor.

Presently, our community is dealing with the ultimate border: death. Rich reminds us, in a poem written before AIDS: "somewhere, each of us must help the other die." For some of us this somewhere has come much too soon, and far too quickly. The death of our loved ones from AIDS might darken this book, but how extraordianry we are in dealing with the darkness is evident in the poems dealing with AIDS: Michael Lassell's "How to Watch Your Brother Die," Thom Gunn's "Lament," Honor Moore's "Memoir." How refreshing to hear Frank O'Hara's plea, "No more dying," from his "Ode to Joy," call to us from another decade in which so many young people died. "No more dying." How we wish this was so.

We would do well to heed the advice given in Joan Larkin's "Rhyme of My Inheritance":

> May I let go of these bitter rhymes;
> and may this burial be my last
> while I live in my body and learn from my bones
> to make some less predictable sound.
> let this coffin of verses inherit my pain.

When we do so our world becomes much lighter, and a far better place in which to live. This book, at its best, points the way, from darkness into light.

Stereotypes...

(continued from page 49)

ed to be time for questions. This held the promise of being a very interesting part of the seminar, as it appeared there were many in the audience who wanted this kind of direct dialogue. But unfortunately, due to a lack of time, only a couple of questions were taken.

One woman in the audience said she felt the panel had only focused on Jewish women in relation to men — not Jewish women in relation to ourselves and each other. Shereover-Marcuse responded, saying she was glad the issue of lesbianism had arisen. "I have done a lot of work with Jewish women who define as lesbians or who define as bisexuals. And what I have found is that the power of the internalization of the stereotype is not different for lesbians than for heterosexual women. That is, Jewish lesbians, when they will take a look at it, also worry about being a Jewish American Princess, or being too loud, or too pushy, or too whatever.

"And part of the problem with one-dimensional feminism, across the board, is that it blames us for not having gotten rid of the echoes in our heads. We need to understand that the internalization of oppression is something that affects us regardless of the other strategies we adopt — that it is not our fault and we need to stop blaming each other."

Organizers of the film festival say they plan to have further seminars relating to Jewish women and film at next year's event. Plotkin's partner, Deborah Kaufman, said, "The seminar totally exceeded our expectations. One of the reaons it was so successful was because of the interdisciplinary nature of the seminar. We had a film historian, an actor, a philosopher and a film director. This provided a lot of breadth and depth — it was very illuminating.

"Jewish women need to play a more active role in Jewish social and culutral life. We hope our program will stimulate this involvement."

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Male seeks same to share 2 bd/1 ba with fireplace near UCSF. Easy parking. $375. Available 9/1. 665-7619.

Moving to Hawaii? Taking a long vacation? Looking for a female housemate for 3-bdrm, 2 bath house in Kaneohe (Island of Oahu) 15 minutes from downtown Honolulu. $400 plus ½ utilities. Call Linda at (415) 578-9158.

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Lesbian seeks lesbian to share comfy North Oakland home. Huge room off back yard. Share bath, kitchen and laundry room. $375 p. month & ½ PG&E. No drugs. No smoking. Available Sept. 15. Call 653-2170.

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Counseling for workaholics, co-dependents, recovering substance abusers, women and men who feel out of touch with their own needs, feelings, strengths. I've worked extensively with survivors from alcoholic and incestuous families. Betsy Ferber, MA, MFCC (#MF 23920) 658-2234.

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Coming Out Group for Women new to woman-loving feelings/identity — for women in any stage of coming out — 8 weeks — S/S $125-$175 — San Francisco or Mountain View — Call Dotty Calabrese (415) 968-1981.

Lesbian Group Focusing on Recovery as Co-Dependents: an ongoing therapy group for lesbians whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking or drug use. This group will focus on the patterns of compulsive caretaking, losing yourself in relationship to others, sacrificing of self, and anxiety about intimacy and abandonment. The purpose of this group is for each woman to explore how her co-dependence affects her current relationship to herself and to others. 6-month minimum commitment (1 year clean and sober). **Monday evenings, SF. Mary Cavagnaro, MFCC 431-5342.**

Lesbian Therapy Group for women who want to improve their ability to establish close and gratifying relationships, increase self-esteem, achieve potential and overcome the effects of growing up in dysfunctional families (i.e. alcoholism, drugs, abuse, incest, emotional deprivation). Minimum six months commitment. Insurance accepted. Facilitated by Zona Gregory who has twelve years experience with individuals, couples and groups. For information call 552-9388.

Group for Lesbian couples in recovery focus will be on using 12-step program, tools and developing other skills to deal with relationship issues such as: intimacy fears, sexuality, boundaries, communication. 12 week groups begin Sept. SF and Oakland locations. Info: Chris Peters MSW 531-8565.

Gay Men's Therapy Groups see ad in this issue. George Bilotta, Ph.D. 586-7811.

Group for lesbian survivors of incest and other sexual abuse as children. 12 weeks with possibility of continuing. $20/session. Eves. East Bay. Heather Taylor MFCC 843-4854.

Lesbians who have been battered: Therapy group for lesbians who are in or have left violent relationships. Thursday evenings in Oakland. Beginning mid-October. Audrey Martin, MFCC (#MVO23054) 428-1505.

Inhabiting ourselves movement therapy group (adults). We will use emotions, memories and dreams to explore and develop body awareness, personal imagery, spontaneity and self-expression. Mondays, 5:30-7:30. Movement and drama therapy for children. Role playing, storytelling, gestures, self-awareness. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30. Beginning September 26. Berkeley Safe, supportive small-group setting. For information and registration, call Marsha 548-9599.

Lesbians who love too much — ongoing group to explore obsessive attractions to painful, unfulfilling relationships and what you can do to recognize, understand and change the way you love. Sliding scale. Info/res: Marilyn Girard, MFCC Lic#MG18866. 843-2998.

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■ WORKSHOPS/CLASSES

Using Improvisation on the Pathway to the Self Who are the characters inside us? What are our dreams and symptoms trying to tell us? Working with the breath and the body and the voice. Exploring the insides of our experience. As Gertrude Stein said, "Messages are being sent all the time." Day and evening classes. Sliding scale. For info and times call Rhea, 824-0455.

Autobiography classes for women — using photos, dreams, scrapbooks, writing exercises, music to inspire writing about our very own lives. Supportive. Starts Setpember. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night classes. 7-9:30 pm. No. Oakland. Call Wendy 654-8540.

The urge to merge: intimacy and communication A workshop for lesbians, Sunday November 6th. Call Nanci Stern, MA, 863-5081 or Wendy Moser, MA 526-8876.

Breaking through to a fulfilling career Feeling stuck in a job or career that's going nowhere? Join us for a three part class series designed to help you break unconscious barriers to success and create for yourself a career which brings you financial prosperity and fulfillment. Both instructors are meditators and bring a spiritual orientation to their work. Call Leslie Lupinsky (526-1860) or Mark DeShazo (626-3131) for information.

Facing the past with power, a 6-hour workshop focusing on moving on with strength from incest/childhood molestation. For information & brochure call 621-5683.

Single and looking — a chemical free weekend workshop for single lesbians who would rather be in a relationship — 10/21-23 at Pajaro Dunes (beachfront house 2 hours south of San Francisco). Discuss dating, how to meet new women, celibacy, loneliness, feeling good now, casual sex, friendship & more. S/S $125-175 includes food, carpools. Call Dotty Calabrese (415) 968-1981.

Monica Sjoo, author of The Great Cosmic Mother, and artist and priestess will give an all-day workshop on the Goddess and her sacred sites on Saturday, September 24th from 10:00 am-5:00 pm at the Berkeley Unitarian Church 1924 Cedar at Bonita in Berkeley. Call 415-444-7724 for tickets.

Small Business Bookkeeping

at Everett High School
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■ PSYCHIC & SPIRITUAL

Psychic Readings Information & insight in a language you can understand. Catherine Harrison 864-1815.

Halloween Spiral Dance for Women! The Women's Spirituality Forum will host its 3rd Annual Halloween Ritual at the SF Women's Bldg. 3543 18th St. in San Francisco Monday, Oct 31st at 9 p.m. $16-$10 sliding. **Merlin Stone**, author of *When God was a Woman*, and *Ancient Mirrors of Womanhood*, will be our special guest and **Z Budapest**, author of *The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries*, will lead the ritual. Don't miss this exciting evening! For more information call 415-444-7724.

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Soothing, skillful massage $30 in/$50 out (special discount before noon) Please call Richard 864-5526 (near 15th and Castro) (Also available at Central YMCA)

Healing touch for women Swedish-Esalen massage for relaxation, emotional/spiritual recovery given by 12 stepper and incest survivor — learn to love and enjoy your body. Call Sonja 532-0746. Sliding scale, some trades accepted.

Women Bodyworkers' Class Support. Information. Practice. Feedback. To revitalize your practice. Free intro nite, Sept. 12, East Bay. Nina Maynard McIntosh 530-4559.

Rolfing demonstration Wednesday, Sept. 21, 7:30. East Bay. For more information, call Nina Maynard McIntosh, Certified Rolfer, 530-4559.

■ HOME SERVICES

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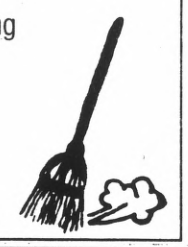

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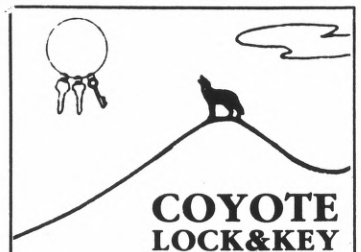

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AD COPY DEADLINE is the 20th of the month preceding publication. All ad copy must reach us by that date — no exceptions. Ads cannot be taken over the phone. **All** ads must be prepaid. No refunds. Changes in ongoing ad copy cost $5 each, in addition to any cost for extra words.

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■ MUSIC

Lesbian guitarist forming lesbian blues-to-classic-rock band. 534-8214.

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Piano lessons Develop and hone your musical ear & your keyboard theory, literature & technique. I am a professional with years of experience and scads of references. Beginners are welcome. $30-$50 per hour sl. sc. Call Janina at 753-8099.

Community women's orchestra seeking new players, especially strings. Fun, informal. Tues. rehearsals in SF. Information 626-4888.

Musicians: Seeking keyboard and other instruments interested in forming mainstream jazz oriented ensemble. If interested call: Jeff at 752-9689.

■ PARENTING

Gay Asian-American, 29, wishes to coparent with Asian or white female, 24-32. Reply POB 280762, San Francisco, CA 94128.

SFGWM, 42, professional, home-owner, healthy, happy, HIV-negative, attractive, responsible, seeks to be known donor/"uncle" with lesbian couple. Also interested in meeting others of like mind for extended family. Reply CU! Box SPC501, c/o 592 Castro, SF 94114.

■ PERSONALS

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Women Women Meeting Women Straight, Lesbian, Bi — women only. Bay Area introduction service (for friendship and/or romance). Send descriptive letter, $10, SASE, to: WMW 1010, 3301 El Camino Real, Atherton, CA 94025.

k.d. lang fan club now forming. Share the fantasy. Call for more info. Miriam 285-1769 SF or Jacquie 530-6604 E. Bay.

Flattops, crewcuts, USMC hi & tights haircutting or bodyshaving turn you on? Meet others sharing these interests. Video, photos, local parties, newsletters. Reply to Clippers, Box 5871, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

I can't give you anything but love. Attractive, slender, young, intelligent, GWM seeking well-to-do gentleman for companionship and financial assistance in my pursuit of a Ph.D. I know what's in it for me, let's get together and talk about what's in it for you. My interests are swimming, reading (of course!), eating healthily, movies, classical music, piano, romance, good loving, travel, languages (I've studied French, Spanish and Portuguese), learning, growing, spiritual awareness and being of service to others. Reply CU! Box SPC601, 592 Castro, SF 94114.

Straight feminist male unusual single male, 33, 5'9", seeks egalitarian relationship (but open to friendships also) with an unconventional woman. I'm trying to get away from traditional roles, looking for equality, independence, and supportiveness. Like adventure, dancing, mother nature. Reply 109 Minna, Box 534, SF 94105.

Handsome male in Sweden, 29 yrs., heterosexual, HIV positive, but no sign or symptom of AIDS, feel well, happy and have good job. Seeks female for relationship, preferably HIV positive who would like to live in Sweden. All ages are welcome. Write to: Martin, c/o D. Shilmark, Noaks Ark, Drottninggatan. 61, 11121 Stockholm, Sweden.

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THE PERSONALS

WOMEN

Haven't Been Involved

for a while but ready to risk again. I am gentle and independent, late 20's, with good friends and a passion for my work. Sometimes funny, sometimes shy, feminist and feminine, interested in women's health, books and movies, comedy, walking the beach, and sharing stories and quiet times with friends. Above all, I value humor and compassion, consistency and loyalty in my relationships. Open to friendship as well as romance. Reply CU! Box SP8.

My Kind of Woman

is well informed, intriguing, playful, soft-eyed, honest and motivated. She has close friends, is self-reliant, fit and likes to cuddle, wrestle and dance. Even though I am similiar — I can not find her. Can you help? Most of all I want a woman has really 'worked' on herself, who really loves life and is not entangled in drama. Please rush clues, maps, letters and photos to this 31 y.o. cutie care of Reply CU! Box SP9. Reward negotiable.

Rendez-Vous at the O.K. Corral

This gallant, thoroughbred Sagittarian is looking for a she-stallion to curry with friendship, perhaps lather with love. I'm a long-distance runner, winner of the Lesbian Triple Crown with three previous long-term relationships to season my savvy and open my heart. (References upon request.) A happily eccentric, almost financially "stable" artist (who's secure, anyway?), I like a big meadow and accord you the same. When we share passion, I can love you gentle or wild — no spurs or whips, natch. "S&S" (sex & spirituality) can take us to the Circle of Roses. My racing silks are the colors of anarchy; I am an ardent, cheerful lefty: 90% politically aware; 10% plain sleazy. Are you my five-gaited/twelve-stepping/non-smoking/self-accepting laughing Zen cavalier? Have you learned comedy the hard way? Are you a right-livelihood entrepreneur or activist? Since I'm a silver-maned 45-year-old, with my boho elegance becoming more dashing by the moment, why wait to horse around when you can run the Tantra with this centaur woman? Photo — neigh — beauty and courage are more important than looks, but a silver tongue, now.... Reply CU! Box SP10.

Hot and Sizzling

Very pretty, very feminine, sexy, sensual — all woman inside and out, romantic, sincere and very real, seek to be with the same, 27-37. Are you out there? I have been waiting for you. Photos prefered (will return). Reply CU! Box SP11.

1 meter 71 centimeter tall, 30 yrs. old European wavy art student with no flies on her wants classy amazon for sweet hours. Heart and Humor! Motto: I won't bore you, please don't bore me. Particularily attracted to dark haired/eyed/skinned women. No interest in sm/drugs/alc. Do write! Reply CU! Box SP12.

Yes

After spending some time alone I am now ready to date. I think positive and enjoy a successful business. I have spent many years understanding my past and who I am today. Now I am ready to get on with it. Clean thinking about politics, good humor and a spiritual base are a must. Exercise and travel are a part of my life. I enjoy hiking, biking, in-depth conversations, sexual openness, sunsets, rafting — adventure! I am 38, 5'5", 120 lbs., and good looking. I seek a woman who is in a similar place in her life. Simply answering this ad is a plus in my book. Please include photo. Reply CU! Box SP13.

Country dyke seeks friend willing to travel and into art. Mother nature is here to nurture us all. Drug-free, free spirits 30-45 open to adventure, hopefully w/own car, ready to communicate, single but w/out expectation, love the sun, organic lifestyle, wildlife, poetry, movies, peace & serenity. If you know yourself & are ready to share, answer all responses. International world citizens w/loving hearts & creative minds Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 581, Ft. Bragg, CA 95437.

Racquetball & Roses

Intelligent, versatile female who's aggressive on the court, but passive enough to appreciate soft smelling roses. I'm 30, 5'6", brown & brown, with a strong mind & body. Interests include: deep conversation, personal growth, family, humor, dancing, sports and every aspect of being feminine ~~from~~ houseware to hardware. Attracted to obviously feminine, mature women 30-50, who can handle me on the court and help primp me in the parlor. If you're attractive inside & out, successful and looking for a strong shoulder and a soft touch reply w/photo Reply CU! Box SP14.

Attractive Jewish woman, mid-thirties, seeking a connection of heart and spirit. I'm sensitive, expressive, have a quick mind and the ability to listen. These days I find myself engaged in an ongoing process of learning to be as present as possible, to hold as much of my experience as gently as I can. I'm a reader and a thinker who values both time alone and the challenge of growing in an intimate relationship with another. I'm drawn to a woman with depth, sensitivity, warmth, imagination and courage — someone who has an appreciation of the natural world, values being present, seeks the gifts that are often embedded in challenging times, and through it all, still retains a sense of wonder and love of laughter. If this speaks to you, Reply Boxholder, Box 23, 1678 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley

Here I Am

That's what your ad said, soul bunny, two years ago this month. I went right home and answered it, then fantasized for a week about what it might be like to meet and get to know you. Came pretty close to reality, too, walking in the hills. Of course, I couldn't have predicted the dream mirror Hallowe'en costumes that launched this partnership a few weeks later. Clip and save this ad — it's good for a free breakfast at the site of our 1st date.

Big, Strong, Butch

wanted by fem. 21, 5'2", very sexy, honest, a little shy at first, not into headgames or heavy drugs, loves cats (the kind w/1 & 9 tails), very affectionate. Would be a sucker for a female version of Micky Rourke in 9½ wks. If you have a dirty mind & a big, strong body & are honest, stable, don't have a problem loving someone, affectionate & are looking for a fun, monogamous relat. send me your letter & photo. Reply CU! Box SP1.

Where are you?

The woman of my dreams is GWF, 35-45, avg. ht & wt, above avg. looks, cute to fem, hi wage earner, drives a nice car, is smart & loves life & dogs, nice home or apt, enjoys the great outdoors, TV, theatre, dining in & out, some sports, not cultural or political — casual wear. All music except C&W, travel, social drinker, smoke OK. Reply Boxholder, 2261 Market, Box 108, SF 94114.

Short and Sweet

Are you tired of all those tall, young things? I am! I'm just over 5'1" and just over 40. Some of my interests are: music; going to plays; hiking (when it's not sunny); finding hidden stairways in San Francisco; smiles; driving (especially the back roads); and working on projects around the house. No drugs. I'm looking forward to meeting you. Reply CU! Box SP2.

Are You Nasty?

New to California. Smartass verbal femme bottom seeks sane but twisted playmates. I'm into bondage, flagellation, high-tech implements of torment, and well-honed sardonic wit. I'm cute, wiry, in my mid-thirties. Are you creative, physical, and not intimidated by brains? Are you a happy pervert?

Limited Offer

Attractive engaging femme seeks GQ type woman. Only self-confident, provocative, risk taking women need apply. Reply Boxholder, 1435 Sebastopol Rd, #150, Santa Rosa, CA 95407.

Soulmate!

In SF or your friend here will connect us, you are slow hand, first-born, 32+, have lots of "air," are intimate with women. "Know-y Valet" — writer reborn; spiritual path of slight eccentricity. Reply CU! Box SP4.

Watching an Inch Worm

Walk on a spruce tree as I write this ad. Country housebuilder turned city dweller, 44, photographer, self microscope in focus, attractive, unorthodox adventurer, 60's activist, socially concerned, with an eye open for a family community with humor, looking for powerful chemistry to stir up a healthy passionate companionship. Reply CU! Box SP5.

Cuddles Needed

I am craving cuddling that is not sexual but loving. I am an attractive, slender, warm, cuddly woman who is gentle, introverted, soft voiced, artistic, scared and not ready to be sexual. But ready to create close nurturing friendships. I get along well with Asian, Hispanic and other foreign born women and American women who are shy and warmhearted. Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 4534, Berkeley 94704.

Light Rain

Gently kisses the beach. Waves crash — a gull cries. I wander the Tahitian coast — alone in my thoughts. You see me — a dark haired, feminine, very attractive Italian woman. Also alone, a soft feminine woman, you quicken your step to overtake me. We talk — of life and loves — and quietly spend the day exploring. Dusk descends to find us alone, caressing on the beach — gently revealing our innermost selves. I'm waiting and walking — find me. Reply CU! Box SP6.

East Bay Women Wake Up

This morning it was cold, dark, and foggy. Your soft, warm, perfect body next to me made it difficult to get out of bed. But I had business to attend, so I showered and chose my finest linen suit. As you kissed me goodbye, you said the smell of my cologne drives you wild and that you wanted to tear my clothes off. On the way I called you from my car. You were still in bed. I told you how much I loved you and that the sweet smell of your body drives me wild. You said you were glad I waited so long, that I must have been waiting for you because when we met, we knew it was meant to be. Later, I got back in my car and the phone rang. I knew it was you. As I reached to get it, I woke up to a buzzing alarm clock. Just a dream. I looked over at the vacant side of my bed. Sigh. Reply CU! Box SP7.

94709.

This is

my birthday month (I am a Virgo w/Scorpio rising) and I am hoping to meet my lucky charm! I am a playful, passionate, polished professional woman in search of a feminine counterpart age 36-46 who is: affectionate, attractive, friendship oriented, adventurous, tall (over 5'7"), successful, self-assured and very sexual. My interests include: reading, bicycle riding, scrabble, bed & breakfast adventures, dancing and travel. Descriptive letters and phone # get my immediate response. Reply CU! Box SP15.

Ready Yet?

Attractive, 46-yr.-old, seeking femme who's entusiastic about life, happy with herself, creative, yet can be reflective, talk about ideas/a good book/inner feelings. Passions to include hand holding; partner dancing; a soft rug, glass of wine & soft music; movies/theatre with depth; nature; exploring restaurants. Important values are genuineness, openness, self-awareness, warmth, sensitivity & humor. Prefer non-smokers under 5'6". Reply CU! Box SP16.

Sheer Enjoyment

Smart, attractive, Financial District professional (mid-thirties) seeks someone who loves to play. I enjoy tennis, travel, swimming, opera, dining out, movies, long walks, bicycling, weekend trips up the coast and champagne brunch on the beach. I am seeking a vibrant, creative, intellectually curious woman who would like to share all of the above and more, who desires a rich friendship and eventual relationship. Reply CU! Box SP17.

Shake, Rattle & Roll

to a 50's party that's bound to be a blast from the past! Let's do the Stroll, the Madison, the Lindy. Meet other lesbians who've never forgotten the beat of "Mr. Lee," "My Girl," "Crazy Little Mama," "Duke of Earl"! For an invite, write describing your favorite song & why, your grooviest party & a self-description. Singles needed. Yes, I'm single & looking! I'll call with details. Party to be end of Sept/Oct. Reply CU! Box SP18.

Do You Like Riding in a Convertible

or would you rather go camping in a van? GWF, 43, 5'7", 126 lbs., seeks lesbian 30's-40's who enjoys either or both. I live in SF, but willing to travel out of the city. I'm looking for companionship with the possibilty of it leading to a lasting relationship. I'm financially stable, honest, monogamous, and believe relationships should be a 60-60 proposition. I'm not a separatist, political activist nor into head games. My cooking and dancing abilities admittedly could use improvement. I like to travel near and far, by plane or car, party on occasion, go to the movies, hold hands, feel close to someone phsycially and mentally, go shopping, watch the sunset, go to Reno, go to flea markets, hang in hang out, drive along the coast (East or West) and probably whatever you like to do, since this list is far from all inclusive. I smoke, drink socially, but I don't use drugs (light pot use okay). If you think we're compatible (I'm flexible) please take a chance and Reply CU! Box SP19.

Dance Partner Wanted

Must have rhythm and be available for Thursday night dancing at the Box. I'm a 5'1", dress-wearing lesbian who prefers a tall, attractive butch. Photo appreciated & returned. Reply CU! Box SP20.

East Bay Delight

seeks same for cuddles & affection. Ex-New Yorker, 38, with great sense of humor & personal grace has been celibate for 2 yars & is now ready to date again. I want a slow, gentle re-entry into the land of relationships — care to come along? Do you like dogs, movies, martial arts, the Far Side, Cher, sunsets, going for walks, dancing, courting & cultivating new friendships? RSVP Reply CU! Box SP21.

The Plot Thickens

Humorous writer seeks one more character for her next short story. This character must be warm, affectionate, progressive and like kids. She will mingle with established character who is a creative Jewish woman. The plot like plum pudding thickens... Reply CU! Box SP22.

Let's be honest!

I am not good at dating. Too shy I guess... but a good catch, my friends tell me. 30, European, fem, attractive, funny, cynical idealist. Favorites are the ocean, nature in Marin, culture in the city, psychology, cats, etc. Want to share these and more with a special woman. If you are friendly, open, available, attractive, fem or androgynous, in recovery, or non-abusive of substance — Let's meet! Reply CU! Box SP23.

Passionate

Wanted: a monogamous relationship with lots of sexual spice! I'm attractive, in my mid-twenties, sensitive and giving, yet with a strong, healthy psyche. I'm easy-going — I'd love to curl up together and watch videos; but I also have varied interests. I'm passionate and intense in bed (as well as creative), and I'm looking for a long term relationship wtih another gentle personality. Reply CU! Box SP24.

My Birthday's Coming Up

and I'd like someone wonderful to share it with! Warm, feminine, exotic-looking professional, (long, dark hair and eyes), 35, 5'5", slender, enjoys travel, movies, entertaining, architecture, photography, and spontaneous pursuits who goes weak in the knees for slim, smart, communicative, pretty blondes (but open to others) seeks counterpart for friendship and romance. Reply Boxholder, Box 2327, 2140 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 94704.

Companion Sought

For dinner or perhaps (dare I hope) for a lifetime. Activities to include but not limited to: going to concerts (women's music, jazz, vintage rock...), plays and movies, going horseback riding, running and playing racquetball, embarking upon new adventures in SF and beyond (quick, pack up the Honda, the spirit of weekend road trips beckons), spending quiet evenings at home engaging in invigorating conversations and side-splitting laughter. And if our relationship were to take a turn for the romantic... (best left up to the imagination until it looks like it may become a reality). If you are interested in doing any or all of these things with a 23-year-old, GWF, send me a note telling me a bit about yourself. Reply CU! Box SP26.

Forever Takes Time

Is there a woman out there somewhere, late thirties to late forties, who longs to be held, nurtured, listened to, loved and supported through the ups & downs of everyday life, and who can give as much as she gets? Someone, maybe, who's a little afraid of another relationship, but has learned something about herself and is willing to do what it takes to make a good one last? Well, me too. So let's talk, and maybe we'll at least have found a new friend. I'm attractive, very human, with people-centered values. My interests are wildly eclectic, and I'm open to yours. Twelve-step recovery, quirky sense of humor, and warm, welcoming smile all big pluses. Reply CU! Box SP27.

Face the Music

Dedicated visual artist seeks playmates. I'm independent and like it. I'm interested in women (25-35) who are into rock/punk/progressive/alternative music and lifestyles. Inventive sense of style; creative and adventurous nature inspires me — Patti Smith excites me. You'll find me at the new club Female Trouble rather than the old haunts that are too scared to try something new. Reply CU! Box SP28.

Tune Into My Wave

Lesbian lusting for magic and more! Tall, beautiful, fat femme with style and rhythm wanting to meet my match in a butch who loves her body and will love mine. You are a woman not afraid of power — yours or mine. Important details: no dieters, no smokers, no substance abusers. Reply CU! Box SP29.

Latina

Si tus más íntimos pensamientos son en español, and you have to function as a professional in the business world, if your life is rich with friends and children, if your familia and cultura are as important as your spirituality, and you're a child of at least 30 who plays and dances, write to me I am like you. "Face the fear and do it anyways." Non-smoking, non-drugging, very very light alcohol. Reply CU! Box SP35.

It's that simple

Do you just like having fun, walking on beaches, playing raquetball, being quiet, being cuddled? Life's too short to be taken for granted. Are you considerate, sincere, gentle and not a user or abuser? If so, I'm 29, shy and crazy (when comfortable). I enjoy dancing, mellow music, all of the above, and people who are in touch with their feelings and have a goal in their life. Am looking to meet new friends (possibly more). If you're into any of the above, let's meet! Reply CU! Box SP157.

MEN

Alien Seeks Same

After trying to "be" a beatnik, hippy, Big Sur macho druggy, small alternative business entrepreneur, and professional philosopher, I've realized that not fitting into any of these (let alone the mainstream) has freed me to develop what's inside. I'm mid-forties, neither extraordinarily handsome nor unattractive, and keep my 6'2" 170# bod in real good shape. I'm top-ish, and trying very hard to learn how to relate honestly, intimately, with caring and without images. It's difficult. If you'd like to help, and are under 40, thin or muscular, politically aware and feel alienated by the gay scene and TVicarious mass culture, maybe we can be brothers, change the world, and have fun in bed. Reply Boxholder, Box 170217, SF 94117.

Workout Buddy

Athletic boyfriend/lover desired for sharing good times indoors and out with this handsome 7" top. I am 30, 5'9", 160#, blond/blue, clean shaven body builder with 44" chest, 30" waist. I enjoy most outdoor sports, as well as running, hiking, camping out in the woods (together) and on the beach. Indoors, I enjoy intimate evenings and long cuddly nights and weekends at home. If you are also 24-36, confident, outgoing, similar build and interest, let's first share our intimate photos (confidentiality promised), secret desires and phone nos. Hairy legs and smooth, tight buns a plus. Reply CU! Box SP60.

Dildoe Fun

Very handsome/responsible GWM, 30, 5'8", 155, br/br, clean shaven, tight muscular build seeks similar GWM, couples, or bi-couples to enjoy hot, safe sex using dildoes. I'm a great top or bottom, versatile, hot, very hung. Respond with photo if poss, and your desires. Wanna see my toy box? Show me yours. South Bay area. I will travel. Reply CU! Box SP61.

Brand Spanking New

Can't fight it! Spanking fantasy overwhelming. Simple, safe & sane spanking. No S/M, bondage, etc. Uncle/nephew, brother/brother, etc. Prefer giver, but could be receiver if situation right. Me — 6', 190#, bld/blu, young 40. You — tell me what you need. Reply Boxholder, #463, 2261 Market St., SF 94114.

Positive Outlook

GWM — 30's seeking relationship w/similar or older man. Pluses for you would be self-esteem, aver. to good looks, decent attitude, positive outlook — much like what I'm offering you. I'm also very light drinker and HIV negative. Sexuality is not the highest priority for me, but mutual sharing and trust are. Well educated with many interests but down-to-earth all the same. This time, try someone for real. Reply CU! Box SP62.

Friendship First

Attractive, sensitive GWM, 26, 6'2", 165#, blonde hair, blue eyes looking for a long term relationship with someone who also values establishing friendship before remance. I find I'm most attracted to American Indian/Italian types yet will consider others as who you are is most important; please be within five years of my age and write with photo to Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 1122, Larkspur, CA 94939.

Dykes to Watch Out For

Ready to Hear the No's and the Yes's
No one should see The Unbearable Lightness of Being without having a special man to hold and talk to afterwards. That's what I'm looking for. I'm in my 40's, in academics, have never had a washboard stomach and have love handles in all the right places. My interest in the caregiving profession, especially with PWAs has left me contemplating a career change; an exciting prospect. I'd like to meet someone at least over 30, straight appearing and acting, healthy, who enjoys the experience of life, love, art and can talk about it. Your personality is more important than your looks. Nevertheless I'm curious to see the face of the people responding to this ad. Photos returned accompanied by my own. If you can relate to my first sentence I hope you respond. Reply CU! Box SP64.

Wanted, GWM Playmate
Want your tits played with till they sting? Want loving hands pressing into your deepest recesses? Then get a letter off to Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 11659, SF 94101-7659.

Hirsute Wanted
Attractive, masculine GWM, 38, dark hair, 6', 170#, moustache, trim, smooth body, sexually versatile, seeks very hairy man for safe physical intimacy. I have a good sense of humor and a terrific smile. I enjoy movies, travel, romance, honest communication and my work. Am attracted to very hairy men in good physical shape who are non-smokers. Want to meet someone who is sensitive, enjoys life and has a positive attitude. Am looking for relationship having mutual support and good communication of wants and needs. Photo appreciated, will reply. Reply CU! Box SP65.

Hot Hispanic Stud
I'm masculine, handsome, well-built, blue-eyed, 30 yrs old, 5'8", 163 lbs. I'm also an easy-going butt pumper living a straight life in the E. Bay and enjoy outdoor sports. I want to meet well-built, masculine, hung, GWM for safe hot action. HIV-only. Photos optional. Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 5795, SF 94101.

One Man's Wish
If you've been hoping to meet a GM, 38, 5'6", 145#, 39c, 30w, 14a, blk/brn, moustache, smoke & drug free, HIV-, who's into aerobics & weights, titplay & bodyworship, T-shirts & 501s, cooking, T.V., dancing, movies, theater, fashion and art; then your wish has come true. My wish is to meet an attractive, muscular GWM with similar physique and interests who would consider a monogamous relationship with a passionate man. Letter and photo to Reply CU! Box SP66.

Older Men Only
Come on, Dad, where are you? Sometimes I need a little bare ass spanking to keep me in line, but I also want a gentle, loving and tender man who enjoys himself, his body and life. Please no sophisticated, cosmopolitan or over educated types need apply. I want a simple, down to earth, honest, hard working, fun loving man who is in touch with his feelings and wants to have some fun. Hairy chest is a plus. I am 38 GWM, 5'10", slim 135 attractive, smooth hairless ass. Long blond hair. Your photo gets mine. Come on, let's live out some fantasies. Reply CU! Box SP67.

Ready, Willing, Able
Ready to commit (again) to a friend/companion/lover who enjoys hardcore cuddling, slow gentle caressing with a streak of theatrical imagination and adventure leading to hot, sweaty safe sex. Willing to welcome a man who is articulate, educated, financially/emotionally secure, affectionate, sensitive, romantic, monogamous, HIV neg., handsome, hung, versatile, non-smoker, non-hard drug user, light alcohol, hairy but not hirsute; exhibitionist a plus, interested in my interests, age 25-45, in shape, not overweight. Able to share my 6'2", 180#, br/br w/beard, 41 yr. young body (needs toning), HIV neg., exploring spirituality (not religion) through my love of nature, animals (w/4 cats), theatre, music, art, architecture, opera, the ocean, the mountains, camping, cooking, long walks. I am in arts administration in higher ed. stage designer, home owner in North Bay. If this recipe fits into your cookbook, your letter, photo, and phone number receives my reply. Please Reply CU! Box SP68.

Natural Leader Wants Mate
Successful, young professional, 36, 5'10", 155#, with salt & pepper hair, dark eyes and gentle hands wants to be the take charge man in a permanent, monogamous relationship. I'm a sensuous, HIV- top with an energetic, outgoing, and decisive personality. I enjoy a healthful diet and a lifestyle free from dependence on tabacco, alcohol, or drugs. My life partner will be a white, Latin, or Asian man in his 20's or 30's, slender to average build, who is bright, attractive, and involved in his own career and hobbies. Together we can make a great team, enjoying our home, entertaining friends, traveling, evenings in the city; sharing various cultural and outdoor activities and having our own individual interests as well. We've both responsible, ready to make a commitment, emotionally healthy & loving. Let's get together. Reply CU! Box SP69.

Sideburns
I like men of any age with thick hair growing down the side of their face. Hairy bodies with boots are a turn on, too. I am 37, 6'4", 155, brown hair, blue eyes and large moustache. HIV-negative. Photo appreciated. Reply CU! Box SP70.

Strong PWA Needs Same
GWM and PWA in excellent health with nice build and strong mind. Italian, 31 yrs old, 180 lbs., 6 ft tall, short (receding) blk hair, brwn eyes. Tired of people being afraid. Wants GWM/PWA or AIDS educated, 30-40 yrs old, for dating , friendships, and intimacy. Common interest should be a love to eat good food, good movies, good conversation, walks, working out, touching, and honesty. If this sounds like you, Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 5173, Novato, CA 94948.

Sex is Secondary
I live in Wine Country (40 minute drive from SF). Am a mature (over 55 GWM. Am a writer, and I'm looking for amusing, bright conversationalist to have weekly dinner (on me!) and a stimulating exchange of ideas with. If sex happens, great! If it doesn't, no problem! Doesn't matter what age you are — what matters is good conversations. Reply CU! Box SP71.

Leather Daddy
Seeks leather boy, or one desirous to become one. I'm age 44, 5'7", 135 lbs. I prefer someone close to my height and weight, and who thoroughly enjoys being bottom. Quiet, serious, goal-oriented, relationship-oriented, and a slightly off center-bizarre sense of humor are a plus. If honest, healthy, and are looking for a growth experience, send letter and photo. Reply CU! Box SP72.

East Bay Giant
Hung attractive East Bay professional in La Morinda area seeks same. Muscular, lean, versatile 36 y.o. GBM, 5'11", 175, HIV neg. diverse interests. e.g., bicycling, music (performance/listening) all types, enology, cuisine, chess. Seek hung and/or attractive masculine resident of La Morinda/Alamo/Blackhawk areas preferably: HIV neg., under age 40, non-smoker only. Reply Boxholder, Box 95, Orinda, CA 94563.

Music Lover
Share intimacies with a warm, intense, bearded 42 y.o., 5'6" man. Lover of piano playing, classical music, opera, and nature. Photo appreciated. Reply CU! Box SP73.

Warm Daddy/Brother
Caring, handsome HIV neg man, 47, seeks younger (25-40) men with a view to establishing a long-term relationship. I'm a well educated mental health professional interested in people, world travel, hiking, movies and intelligent conversation. I'm attracted to younger masculine men who need a relationship that combines fatherly nurturing with mutual caring and equality. In the bedroom I like both warm, affectionate sex and hot dominance/spanking scenes. Outside the bedroom, I want to share activities, responsibilities, fun and the ups and downs of life. Reply CU! Box SP74.

Uncut Only!
39 yr old shy Black male likes to play with big uncut cocks attached to chubby Black guys over 45. Let's get together and play. Please be huge and well endowed. Reply CU! Box SP75.

Sexy Legs Drive Me Nuts!
Do you have thick, muscular, tanned, hairy legs? Are you a handsome, aggressive, masculine, down-to-earth guy who can be dominant yet is sensitive and very affectionate? If so, this masculine 28 year old GWM wants to hear from you. I'm slender (6'1", 160 lbs.). Fair complexion (brown hair, moustache, some freckles). HIV-, and a non-smoker. I enjoy the outdoors: hiking, camping, walks on the beach, or a weekend in the mountains. Let's exchange photos and see what we might have in common. Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 51113, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

Looking for True Love
Good-looking, professional, 29, 6'0", 165#, Br/Br, with moustache, bi-lingual English/Spanish, HIV neg., is searching for true love. I am looking for a long-term monogamous relationship. I enjoy spending time at home, dining out, and movies. Hobbies include aviation/travel. I am looking for a handsome Latino or GWM, HIV neg., 20-29 y.o. who is warm, affectionate, loving, cares about people, and is willing to make a commitment if things work out. Send your photo, some details and phone and I will send you mine. Reply CU! Box SP76.

Am I asking too much of my Mr. Right?
Slim and attractive Asian, late 20's, in creative professions, looking for a quality GWM for companionship. I enjoy arts, theatre, dancing, running my fingers through that special person's hair, feeling his chest and shoulder, hugging and other stuff. Since I am slim, intelligent, artistic and sincere, I hope to meet someone with the same qualities. So far no luck. If you are 25-35, non-smoker, somewhat adventurous and believe in communication, please Reply CU! Box SP77.

Active, Healthy, PWA, Bear
Looking for intense quality relationship preferably with one man. Enjoy cooking, cuddling, the beach. Me: 5'6", 135 lb., sexy, hairy, blue grey eyes. Romantic, like to travel, don't do drugs (except prescription & pot). I have a beard & go to the gym. Am 32 yrs old. You: Bearded bear, extremely romantic & cuddly, playful & optimistic. Prefer top but will negotiate, safe sex only. Reply CU! Box SP78.

Major Tom to Ground Control
GWM hopes to meet compatible GM, GBM preferred. I'm 41 (going on 29), 5'8", light hair, blue eyes, HIV+. I like unpretentious, sensitive, slightly crazed non-conformists who don't take themselves or life too seriously. No sunglasses, straps, spandex pants, Nagels, new age music, or books by Peck. I'm looking for a nice, strong, independent-minded man in his 30's or 40's who also seeks a unique relationship. My idea of fun is a night at the symphony, dancing at the Box, an afternoon at SFMMA, a long weekend in Yosemite, or reading the Sunday paper together in bed after some good sweaty sex. Photo appreciated and returned. Reply CU! Box SP79.

Couples
Ever fantasize a third? I may be your man! Good looking, fun loving, GWM, mid-thirties, dark hair, moustache (of course), healthy, health conscious, Ital-Amer artist — looking to meet some adventuresome individuals or couples who would like to get together with a stray single — not because they're bored or breaking up — but to have some dinner, some fun, see what happens.... Drop a line, photo if possible. Reply CU! Box SP80.

Forever Your Love
Somewhere in the rainbow there is a man who is fit in body and mind, attractive in appearance and character, capable of intimacy and commitment. I am in my 30's, with youthful Asian/Latin good looks, smooth, lean, muscular physique, educated, possessing the courage to be vulnerable, ability to recognize my flaws, hoping to welcome you to his heart. Letter/photo: Reply Boxholder, 2215-R Market Street, #284, SF 94114.

Romance and Integrity
Looking for shared values, honesty, sensitivity, mutual attraction, a sense of humor, and a willingness to work at a relationship that is supportive as well as romantic. I'm 40, 5'7" tall, slim, European born, with brown hair, blue eyes, and HIV neg. I enjoy intelligence, spontaneity with responsibility, and creatively involved people, among others. If you are serious about relationships, let's meet for coffee and see what happens. Reply CU! Box SP81.

Seeking Bondage Buddies
I have a preference for the kink. I'm a handsome W/M, 26, 6'2", 175, br hair/eyes, and am very well endowed. I'm open to fantasy exploration, and erotic S/M. Your picture and phone number receive my immediate attention, if not, then your photo and address is as returnable as mine. Reply CU! Box SP82.

Humboldt Hills Man
Have great cabin, totally passive solar, 40 acres. Am HIV+ and very healthy but lonely. Looking for same or someone not scared of "getting it." Playing safe works. I'm 6'2", 178, reddish blonde, green/brown eyes, trimmed beard, 37 yrs. Love it up here, love visiting the city often. Am into organic gardening, Chinese herbs, working out, lots of different kinds of music, quality friendships based on loving trust, trying to create peace in my life. Dig men older than me, mid to late 40's is the perfect slot, dark haired, salt/pepper/beards/bald/long hair/short, etc. masculine, natural man, earthy, trim, sensitive. Would like a mate but would consider just a land partner, too — country boys will survive. Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 117, Bridgeville, CA 95526.

Romantic Fever
Do you hold the cure? My symptoms: good-looking GWM, 6', 37, 150#, moustached blond. I'm caring, responsible, good-natured, articulate, passionate — and genuine. Enjoy conversation, classic films, weekends, much else! Seeking another GWM, handsome, trim, masculine, (moustache an extra) who's interested in a potential, quality relationship. Think how good this could be! How about taking the chance? Letter and photo please. Reply CU! Box SP83.

I Won't Share
My man. Easy going, sentimental, handsome 36, 5'9", 145#, Bl/Bl, moustache, very healthy HIV+, run and work out regularly, with a great sense of humor. Looking for companion/lover in his 30s who is stable, positive outlook, slightly aggressive, and safe-sexual. I tend to be attracted to Aries, Taurus, Leo & Sagittarians; and non-professionals (don't let this stop you). No smokers or drugs. Letter and photo to Reply CU! Box SP84.

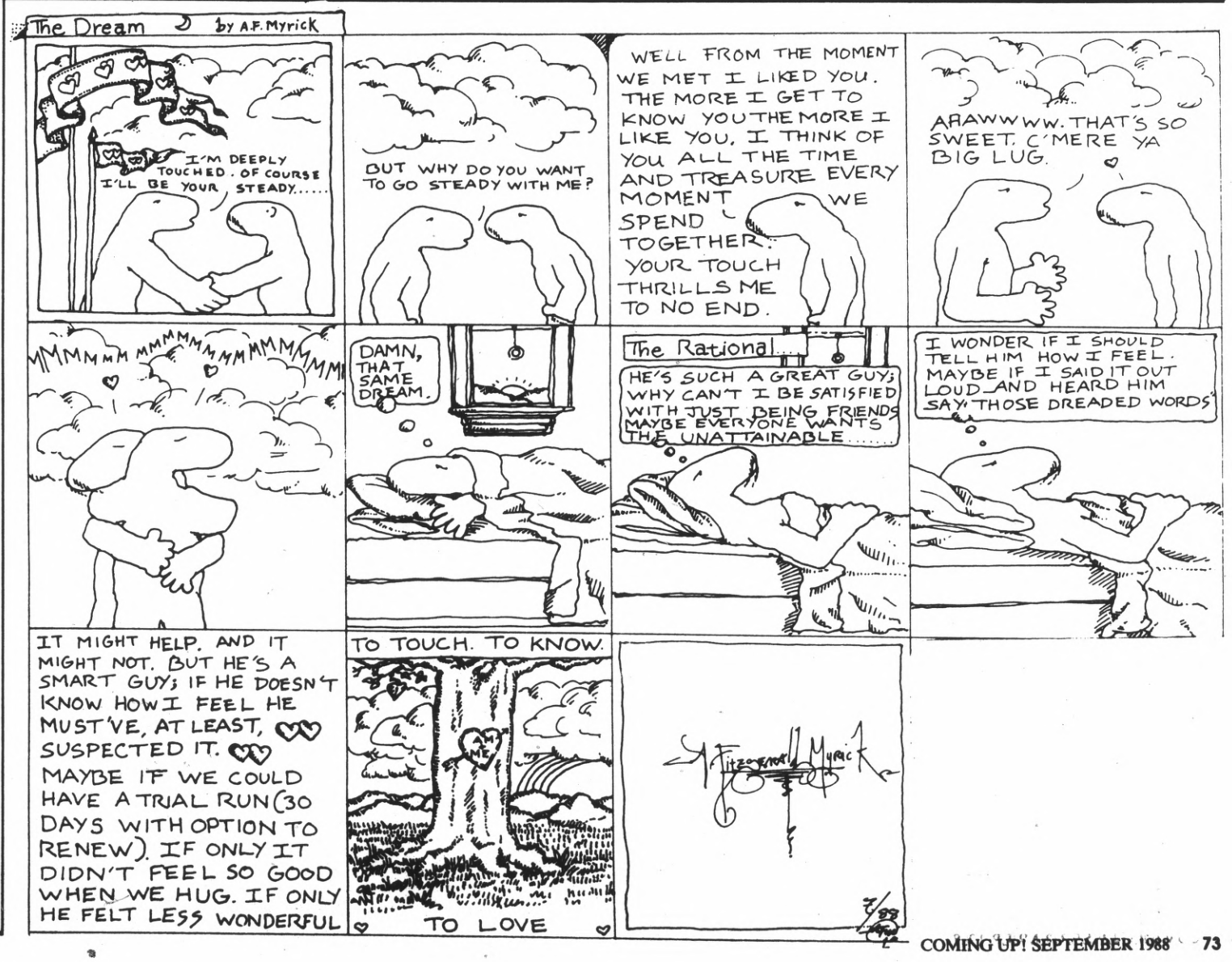
Definition
Remember tight, defined gym bodies? Lean lithe bodies with rippled abs, pronounced biceps and prominent veins? Some people still love 'em. I do. Some people still have 'em. I do. Do you? Do you like to play safely? Are you smart, imaginative, sensuous? Me too. GWM, 6'3", 180 lbs., moustache, smooth ripled body seeks playmate for tongue baths, nipple play, kissing, cuddling and other safe activities. Reply Boxholder, Suite 406, 3315 Sacramento St., SF 94118.

Rock My Dreamboat, I'll Rock Yours
Tall, slim, handsome bottom, romantic, generous and humorous. I'm 34, 6'2", 165#, br/gr, good body. Looking for an athletic top 25-40 for romance, play and passionate lovemaking (safe only, of course). I like dancing, cooking & eating the outdoors, exploring the mind and spirit. Non-smoker preferred but not essential. Picture a must, will be returned. Reply CU! Box SP85.

Unconventional
I'm good looking, GWM, Art Therapist, tall, trim, healthy, relationship oriented, unpretentious, non-smoker. I follow my own philosophy, use my bicycle for transportation, read at Cafe Flore, dislike television and politics, sunbathe naked at Baker Beach, laugh a lot, dance alone at the Stud, iconoclast, enjoy the Haight better than Castro, Rainbow better than Safeway, thrift shops better than Macy's, more sensual than sexual, consider myself the world's best kisser. Seeking same, 25-40, for dating and whatever develops. No form letters or substance abusers. Photo? Reply Boxholder, Box 640444, SF 94164.

Do Opposites Attract?
You: about 5'6", or less, about 135 to 160 pounds, muscular, defined, good-looking, 25 to 35 years old, good chest and abs, kind-hearted, imaginative, happy, employed, a passion for muscles, big men, muscular chests, extended pec and nipple service, oral, watching muscle video, J/O, occasionally wearing leather, falling asleep encircled by a buddy's muscular arm. Me: 6'3", 215 pounds, 30's, competition BB, employed, good-looking, caring, looking for extended pec service, oral, J/O, from in-shape smaller, younger buddy for sensitive and imaginative times. Photo a must, (returned). Reply CU! Box SP86.

Tout est possible
Attractive GWM (39), tired of settling for less, in



search of a real man for a meaningful relationship. I am warm hearted, giving, valuing effective communication, sharing, honesty and positive thinking. Interests include music, theatre, reading, movies, children, politics, and a touch of passion. Up to 45 y.o., settled, and a picture (optional) would make my day. Reply CU! Box SP87.

Loving Relationship

Intelligent, attractive, healthy, professional, GWM, 32, 5'8", 150, seeks educated GAM, 25-35, who's looking for a monogomous relationship. Characteristics valued include warmth, empathy, reflectiveness, intelligence, affection, humor, with ability to listen/share/communicate. Interests include home life, dining, music , movies, camping, hiking. Looking for non-smoking, non-alcoholic with similar qualities. Reply letter/photo to Boxholder, 1435 Sebastopol Road #114, Santa Rosa, CA 95407.

Small Underwear Friends

Daddy-type top, 5'7", 140, young 40, looking for small, young, passive friends who enjoy playing in briefs, bikinis, speedos. With lover have large victorian with hot tub, sun decks, gym, privacy. Enjoy home, good food, music, VCR, workouts, dancing, erotic wrestling/spanking, boyishness, imaginative safe sex. Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 40027, SF 94140.

Style and Substance

Boy-next-door good looks, smart, successful professional, intuitive, creative GWM, 5'11", 170 lbs., with wit, liberal politics, and an intact heart, likes talking, walking, weekends away, movies, art, cuddling, all the good things. At 39, I've lived out my adolescent fantasies, now I'm ready for some grownup ones. You're likely 28-39, stable, good-looking, confident, a doer with a lively mind, predictable in some ways, adventuresome always. If the portrait fits, send a thoughtful note with phone number and photo. Reply CU! Box SP88.

Uncut Seeks Same

Attractive, HIV-, 33, 6'1", 165, sandy blond hair, green eyes, smooth, uncut, muscular, masculine top is looking for a lover who is HIV-, uncut, hairy, 25-35, muscular, outgoing, non-smoking, masculine bottom. I'm a professional; work out 3 times a week; am into horror movies, travel, rock & roll, Levi's, scuba diving; not into drugs; light drinking OK. Respond with photo to Reply CU! Box SP89.

Weekend Prisoner

available for 20-35 year old warden. Open to all types of restraining devices including cages, cells, cuffs, ropes and leather. This attractive 5'7", clean shaven 28 year old GWM with brown hair and eyes awaits a friendly captor. Reply with letter, photo, phone: Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 3633, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

1 + 1 = 2... Well, sometimes

Secure with who I am, it's more than just sexual gratification that I want. I seek a like-minded guy who's ready for a high caliber commitment instead of a one night stand. He, like me, has made it to his 30's through the ravages of the 80's. Discovering along the way that hopes and ideals, although battered and bruised, are still intact. I'm a GWM, 5'9", 170 lbs., Brn/Grn, clean shaven. Stocky, broad shouldered, and solid. Bottom. I enjoy rock, R&B, jazz, intimate dining for two, volleyball, sailing, photography, and scary movies on the VCR... in the dark! So if you're a like-minded, tall, lean, clean shaven top GWM, and think that you may just have found a man your equal; drop a letter along with a photo & phone, and I'll respond with the same. Reply Boxholder, Box 14883, SF 94114.

Fly PWA

Tired of looking for sex, love, companionship in all the wrong places? I am. Playful horny lonesome PWA teddy seeks good times — sexual, intellectual, emotional, romantic — or any combination thereof. I'm 38, stable, cynical, sarcastic, realistic, creative, professional. I'm also 5'9", 170 lbs., blond, hairy, bearded, balding. Would like to meet other PWA/PWARC/HIV+ men ages 25-45 to see what develops. Should be horny, smart, clever, friendly, and good kissers who think there's still time for companionship, romance — or at least time to have some fun. Strikingly good looks not important, but humor, honesty, playfulness and sensuality are. Your photo and phone gets mine. Will answer all. Reply CU! Box SP90.

Beefy and Masculine

That's what I like. Prefer with a moustache or beard and within 8 yrs of my age. I am 33 GWM, 5'8", 142 lbs., br/br moustache, hairy, masculine, in good shape, attractive. Health field professional. I am interested in dating and possibly more. Send note/photo (returned) to: Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 410990, #375, SF 94114-0990.

Strong, Sincere and Sensual

Handsome, 31, 5'10", 150#, HIV+, desires a relationship. My interests include backpacking, skiing, traveling, cooking, and enjoying city life. I am loyal and considerate, have many friends, but looking for a more intense intimate relationship. Like myself you work hard to promote your career and want to share and explore life with someone special. The qualities I value are intelligence, openness and assertiveness. Please tell me about yourself and I will respond. Reply CU! Box SP91.

Muscle Worship

WM, 5'6", 150 lbs., seeks muscular guys who enjoy pumping up, flexing, posing, oil, mirrors and having their muscles appreciated. Seek big bodybuilders as well as lean, defined types. Also Blacks and Asians. Into mounded pecs, rippled abs, calves that turn heads, anatomy chart definition, prominent veins, sweaty armpits and especially peaked, baseball shaped biceps. Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 6655, SF 94101.

Viking

Good looking, masculine, healthy, bearded, hairy, tall, blond, husky, late 30's seeks an ongoing discreet friendship with a masculine, honest, sensual man of color. Filipino, Latin, Japanese, Black — physical opposites can attract! Married or otherwise engaged is OK as long as you have a special place and need for me in your life. I live alone — just north of SF. Take a chance. Reply CU! Box SP92.

Friend/Lover

Attractive mature GWM 5'8", average size, weight, dark hair, moustache, masculine Mediterranean look, low-key but adventurous, looking for honest, gentle, loving intimate relationship. Like beaches, walks, movies, books, art, music, weekends away. Non-smoker, no drugs, HIV neg. Want someone in decent shape, youthful attitude, sense of humor, ability to laugh, love and work at building a relationship. Reply Boxholder, #440, 2215-R Market St., SF 94114.

Am I Your Dream Lover?

I want a simple life, a country home with a little space to grow, and nice things without type A behavior. I enjoy the detail of life and a pace that keeps the view clear, being close to the city for excitement and sense of community as I care about people sharing what I've learned in 37 years. I crave firelit nights with a masculine, smooth man sharing our bodies slowly and passionately, someone to laugh with and share pain. If you relate to this and enjoy sports, the gym & musicals maybe a 6'2", 190#, blue-eyed, HIV neg., hairy blond would stir your brain & balls. I hope so, 'cause I don't wanna have to dream alone. Reply CU! Box SP93.

Lover/Any Race/HIV+

Masculine, muscular, gym-toned and hairy, handsome, healthy and hung. 5'11", 170 lbs., an assertive and active 44, brown hair/eyes/moustache wants monogamous mate 32 to 47. I'm affectionate, stable, versatile, fun to be with, easy to talk to. I want a partner who, like me, is masculinely attractive, physically fit (nice buns turn me on!), romantically and sexually passionate (and versatile), happy with himself, and ready to share an active fun life together. I'm successfully self-employed, and overall a pretty nice relationship-oriented package! Photo/phone to Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 460952, SF 94146.

Tall and Handsome

Asian seeks one tall & stocky man to 45 for monogamous relationship. I am quiet, shy at times but also silly and fun loving. I like to travel, enjoy trying new restaurants, theatre, movies or quiet evenings at home with friends or that special someone. I am 5'10", 170 lbs., 30 yrs old average build, good looking and have a lot to offer for the right man. If you are masculine, take charge and supportive, drop me a line. Let's see whether our chemistry is right. Picture appreciated and will return. Reply Boxholder, Box 31337, SF 94131.

GJM — Mature — 5'7" — slim HIV neg. — non-smoker — non-user, financ. indep., interested music, arts, hum.rgts., traveling the world, looking for attractive HIV neg. man for dating & hopefully a relationship. Reply with photo and letter to Reply CU! Box SP94.

HIV+ Scholarship

If you are positive but still optimistic enough to want to go back to school, I can offer you room and board. City College is fine but you would have to earn your pocket money, and help with some tuition if you go to State. I have degrees in physiology, biochem and physics. I own a computer and printer, and have won awards for teaching in case you need some tutoring. I expect diligence, not genius but would be delighted to find it. Strong possibility for money-making team if you have computer potential. I am a 50-yr-old Kris-Kristof. look-alike, 5'9", 150 lbs., enjoy the outdoors (backpacking, skiing, basketball, 49ers), music (jazz, opera, Pink Floyd), movies, love to cook, do massage, know holistic treatments to bolster immune system, have fabulous legs. Generally attracted to positive, giving people, not overweight (muscles OK); Latin, Asian a plus. Recently began an exercise program. Jacuzzi and pool at my one-bedroom condo. Not expecting lifetime commitment; sometimes the fates require graduates to travel to find suitable employment, that is, you may have to leave city to practice your field; we'll handle that when it comes. Write for application: Reply Boxholder, 31474, SF 94131.

Looking for Friends?

GWM, 41, 5'6", slim, moderately attractive, healthy. Not looking for a relationship but am interested in making new friends. Enjoy films, theater, restaurants, exploring the Bay Area, conversation and companionship. If interested (photo appreciated if available). Reply Boxholder, #460253, U.S. Post Office #53, SF 94146-0253.

PWARC Seeks Quality Friend

Healthy PWARC, GWM, 6'4", 170, 47. Active in swimming, sailing, biking, enjoys sharing quality time w/quiet dinners, cuddling, growing, most music, reading with another caring person w/ similar interest who likewise has a positive quality outlook for the future. Reply CU! Box SP95.

Butch Cowboy Wanted for Relationship

Yes, a relationship! I'm 21 years old, 6 foot, 160 pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, hairless chest, but hairy legs and a small moustache. I'm looking for a butch cowboy to show me the pleasures life has to offer. The man I'm seeking is my height or taller, looks and acts masculine, has facial hair, is 24-35 years old, and most of all a hairy chest and legs. Someone who will hold me tight in their strong arms. Between the sheets I'm no power house, but I'm no corpse either. I love long foreplay, leather and toys, hugging, light bondage, and kink every so often. My interests are country music and dancing, rural living, air travel, and sleeping in each other's arms. Beware I work swing shift, and airline employees are a plus. If I'm looking for you reply with a photo. Reply CU! Box SP96.

W/M, 41, 6', 170, smooth, average body and looks, moustache, professional, stable, HIV+, is tired of sleeping alone and needs a special health conscious buddy in his life. Turn-ons are full beards, hirsute chests, lovers, talkers & listeners, eclectic interests, baldness, and men who are safely anally versatile, with a bona fide interest and need in satisfying their buddy as much as themselves. A kinky interest would add some sparkle. Send phone # — let's chat. Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 460595, SF 94146.

Friend +

I'm seeking a quality person to spend some time with. I find it difficult to meet new people, thought I would try this. About me: 26, 5'10", 155, Brn/Blu, consider myself masculine/gdlkng, responsible/trustworthy, very healthy, believe in making things happen as opposed to waiting. Want to see the world. About you: You're 18-28, honest/sincere, like to have fun and spend quality time with someone (not just seeking sex). Why not drop me a letter, and a photo (if possible, which will be discreetly returned). Reply CU! Box SP97.

Himalayan Travel

Travel companion sought by GM 39 for 1-2 month adventure this autumn in Nepal/Kashimir. Interested in trekking, buddhism, arts and crafts, traveling inexpensively. I'm an outdoor lover, fascinated by other cultures, experienced traveler. Departing October or November; possible stop in Thailand or Bali on return. Reply Boxholder, 2336 Market, Box 123, SF 94114.

Quality Asian

Japanese-American, intelligent, financially stable, healthy, forties, average looks and build, seeks comparable GWM companion, 35-50, healthy, non-smoker and non-substance abuser. Photo appreciated but not necessary. Let's discuss interests in common. Reply CU! Box SP98.

Asian Bondage

Discreet, safe conscious, clean-shaven, attractive Asian (27) with firm/lean physique seeks Asian of similar description for erotic bondage fantasies. My fantasies include restraining captives tightly with ropes, forcibly stripping them and then tormenting them with slapping, spanking, pinching treatment. Struggling, helpless victims in a dungeon or outdoor setting very erotic. Want to try? Write with fantasy & phone number to Boxholder, P.O. Box 16309, SF 94116.

Table for Two

You're coming to dinner tonight. A table is set for two by the large window with a spectacular view of the Bay and glittering city. The fireplace casts a warm glow, the champagne is chilling and wonderful aromas waft from the kitchen. You're my type: 28-42, tall, good physical shape, full of vitality, intelligent, focused, responsible, creative, humorous and sensuous. I'm 37, GWM, 6'3", 170, brown hair (balding) & beard, HIV-, career-oriented, work in the city, live in E. Bay, so I'm open to meeting men in either location, have many creative interests. Tonight my interest is in you. I put on a Sade CD. There's a knock at the door. Reply CU! Box SP99.

Cum In Your Face

Hot young white male, boyish, aggressive, very handsome, clean shaven, 26, 6'1", 160, brown hair, green eyes, some body hair not too hairy, hung close to 9", thick and cut. Seeking boyishly masculine hot white male in twenties, very hot face, handsome or cute, clean shaven no moustache, prefer smooth body, no tobacco, for hot boyish fun. I'm a top (safe & HIV neg) but prefer over anal sex, long sensous mutual J/O, massage, making out, oral sex (do you like to service guys?) and stuff like that. Your photo, phone required with answer, will return all with mine. Reply CU! Box SP100.

Potato Seeks Rice

Asians (also Latins) really excite me! Are you sensual, affectionate, loving, outgoing or even a little shy? Would you like to meet a tall, trim, blue-eyed, GWM 40+, who enjoys the arts, theatre, music, movies, travel, dining and lots of snuggly evenings at home? I'm healthy, HIV neg., non-smoker. Your reply gets my phone number. If you're under 35, please accept this invitation, RSVP: Reply Boxholder, Box 59-0951, SF 94159.

Youthful Tropical Chico

Good looking 24 y.o., 160, 5'10", Br/Br, Olive, exotic skin with witty sense of humor and Spanish accent who enjoys art, dance, music and quiet romantic nights. Looking for mature man 25-40 who likes same things that I do and who is rugged and masculine. Please no drugs, photo appreciated and returned. Reply CU! Box SP101.

Wild Cowboy/Rubberman/Biker

Multi-talented, 35, 5'8", blonde/blue, bearded & hairy. Looking for that special "hot" guy. Bottom/versatile or closet bottom. Into S&M, B&D, C.B.&T.T., F.F., and other hot, heavy wild scenes. Also open to scenes of not just rubber & leather (hoods as well), but costumes, uniforms, cowboy gear, plus. A guy who is looking to be controlled, yet can also be very domineering or full open to being trained to be what I want. If he has property & lives in the country, better yet. I'm looking to move from the city and prefer to live on a ranch. Plus have a shop, garage or big barn for my business. I do woodwork, ceramics, screen-printing, photography, leather work (mountain man/western style), plus I love to do forgework. "Blacksmith." Anybody who is open to a relationship with me or wants to meet a wild guy to grow, learn & experiment with, then I'm your man. No Terrystone hustlers, phonies, one nighters, transients, pagan/devil worshippers, smokers. Drinkers okay. Send letter, phone & photo to: Reply Boxholder, 537 Jones, #213, SF 94102.

Horny Night Owl?

Night owl on prowl but tired of dinged-out daddies, fried chicken. 43 (look 42½), balding, mous., 5'11", hairy, husky, uncut, into hot, heavy basics, clean/sober w/tobacco, loquacious. Usual gay interests: art, kul-choor. Loathe C&W, opera, Drummer, Advocate, butchetta bullshit, mondo-weirdo kink, New Age babble. Not seeking a lover but not opposed. Like lean foxes my age, younger. Wanna play 'till dawn? Letter/pix get mine. Reply CU! Box SP102.

What, at your age?

The perfect fellow. Easygoing, but strong and affectionate. This 40-year-old 6/165 very fit professional with trim, silver beard is seeking a masculine guy who naturally takes the lead in life and likes a substantial exchange of mind, sex, and soul. Possibly the best friend you'll ever have. Negative and safe. The inventor of french active. Reply CU! Box SP103.

December Into May

Older man seeks mature young man for a committed monogamous friendship/love. I'm 51, 6'2", 230. Br Br, sensitive, intelligent, quiet, affectionate, sensual, and vulnerable. I teach HS. I enjoy classical music, opera, reading, movies, nature, walks, rainy days, fog, cats. My spiritual practices include 12 step programs and Sunday worship. My circumstances are modest. You are attracted to big older men, but are not looking for a daddy. You do not use alcohol, cigarettes, or drugs. You are AIDS/ARC free. You are late 20's-early 30's, lean with definition, independent, sweet-natured, reliable, masculine, loving, and positive. Send picture and personal note if you are as serious as I am to create a loving and lasting relationship. Reply CU! Box SP104.

Movie Buff Seeks Real Friends

Sweet, cute, GBM 24, tall, thin, moustache, somewhat shy, serious yet friendly, fun looking for attractive GWM companions, 23-40, small to medium build, humorous, outgoing hopefully with some compatible interests. I enjoy "Whitney Houston," "L.A. Law," "Cheers," "Golden Girls," Billboard magazine, dancing. I'm smooth, bottomish into safe sex. Curly hair, moustaches, olive complexions, plusses. No smokers, drug users, flakes. Photo appreciated. Reply CU! Box SP105.

I Have Friends, and I can Get Sex

What I want is the two together, so I'm seeking lovers for friendship and safe-sex. I'm 24, kind of cure and handsome, tall and thin (6', 145#), brown/blue, attractive, gentle, antibody-, a student. You are 20-30, slender, attractive, gentle, and antibody-. I don't smoke or abuse substances, neither do you. I like movies, videos, books, plays, music, dancing, bicycling, backpacking, swimming, dining out or cooking and eating in, talking, laughing, wit and humor, singing, playing the piano, playing the recorder (duets anyone?), board games, politics, history, traveling, exploring, spontaneity, adventure, having sex in awkward places, making love outdoors, water — such as lakes, oceans and hot springs, roaring down the freeway with the wind in my hair and music in my ears, noticing the moon, and a lot more besides.... What do you like? Reply CU! Box SP106.

Attention Bear Hunters!!

Hunting season is now open on the Russian River! Big, hairy, bearded bear 45, 6', 285 lbs., seeking bear hunters/chubby chasers for friendship, cuddling, hot sex, and more in the Redwoods on mountain overlooking Russian River. If you like the great outdoors and want to enjoy nature with a big hairy bear, prime up your gun and write/photo to: Reply Boxholder, Box 1111, Guerneville, CA 95446.

Searching for One Mature Asian Male

For a lasting relationship to share life. No drugs or smokes. Honest and loving, G/W/M, 5'9" x 132#, blond, blue eyes, very sincere and honest too. I enjoy art, plants, music, dining out, quiet times together, drives on weekends. What do you like? Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box #1465, Alameda, CA 94501 with photo (will return) also phone.

Short, Fat, Ugly

Now that I have your attention, please read on! Actually, I'm an attractive (Italian, dark hair/eyes, moustache), athletic (6'1", 185#), 39 y/o, HIV neg., GWM physician w/a wide range of interests. Wanting to meet a masculine, in-shape, dominant guy (30's, 5'11" or taller). I'm affectionate, communicative (w/a good sense of humor) and would like a monogamous relationship w/someone who's loving and self-supporting. Send a photo w/your reply. Reply CU! Box SP107.

Small But Good

Do you like short guys? Then here's one for you. Feisty, honest and compassionate PWA seeking a boyfriend for a quality relationship of mutual support, positive living, and passionate responsible sex. I am a well constructed 33-year-old, 5'4", 125 lbs. with dark hair and moustache — active, caring, versatile and respect those qualities in others. Looking for a bright, realistic individual who is able to make commitments and feels most at ease in jeans and sweat shirt (or leather jacket). Are you a non-smoker, short to medium height with moustache, perhaps enjoy cooking (and eating!), the humor in life, and exploring new territory? If this piques your imagination write an enthusiastic note about yourself and we'll see what happens! Reply CU! Box SP108.

Secure, Comfortable, Masculine Man

GWM, 30, 6'3", 225#, HIV-, monogamous, masculine top wants to build a very special lifetime relationship with another GWM, 25-45, who shares similar values and life goals. I'm healthy, happy and attractive (warm brown eyes, brown hair, trim beard). I'm a gentle, romantic lover with responsible caring ways, guaranteed to make you feel loved and secure. I use no

high kuku du jour

by James Broughton and Joseph W. Bean

I have a world inside me,
said the Nutshell,
What do you have?

drugs, I'm a lite drinker/smoker. I'm looking for a partner like myself who is professional, mature yet playful, home-loving, romantic, honest and affectionate. I enjoy laughing, cuddling, kissing, sensual pleasures, good friends, the wonders of nature, reading, music, picnics, movies, quiet evenings, and all the silly and wonderful things two men in love can share and do for each other. If you are willing to take a chance, why not write with photo and phone to Reply CU! Box SP109.

Earth Father/Wild Man

I'm looking for a guy with intensity, humor, groundedness, sensuality, who can be fierce, yet keep the light touch, have heart and compassion. A man who takes care of his body, is open to growth, and is less concerned with a particular position than whether the sex is expressed in an open and loving way. I share these qualities. I'm 38, 5'11", 155 lbs., brown hair/beard. I love nature, have backpacked all over California. Involved in environmental politics, a neo-pagan at heart. Also love swimming, drumming, music, skin-to-skin contact, good times with good people. If this ad is talking to you, let me hear about it. A photo would be appreciated (and returned). Reply CU! Box SP110.

Stockey/Chunky PWA

Healthy PWA, GWM, 34, 5'7", 185, stocky husky build, blonde, blue eyes, hairy chest, bearded, sensual, sincere. I was diagnosed one year ago with KS. I have had no other complications with my illness and am otherwise in good health. I'm seeking to share adventures of body, mind and spirit with a special man of similar stocky husky build who is hairy, romantic, sensual, adventurous, discriminating. Open to developing relationship. Reply CU! Box SP111.

Hold Me Like a Baby...

with a warm and slender body/and the sweetest softest hands/and we'll blow away forever soon/and go on to different lands/and please do not ever look for me/but with me you will stay/and you will hear yourself in song/blowing by one day. Seeking a sincere, understanding individual with whom to share warm, relaxed, cuddley times. ARC has left me with little desire for sex — but a strong desire for physical/emotional closeness. I am positive minded, fairly healthy, 36, 5'9", 166, brown, gray beard, unpretentious in appearance and attitude. Tend toward quiet, shy, loving, idealistic. Great loves include music (esp. rock, jazz), friends, outdoors, sleeping together, movies, walks, cooking, reading. Not many requirements for you — maybe be within 5 years or so in age, relationship oriented and sincere. Reply CU! Box SP112.

Spiritual Striving and Sexual Abandon

Lofty ideals and Folsom Street lusts. Authentic freedom and slavish scenes. Meditation and face fucking. Anyone else out there actually living and drawing energies from these contradictions? I'm prof, 42, physically fit (another obsession), versatile (more of a bottom), not anally oriented. Seeking spiritual, maybe even sexual comrade. Please, no drugs, satanism, cults, churches or clubs. Reply Boxholder, Box 30173, Oakland 94604.

Wanted: Musclemen

Muscleman needed to flex & show off while I worship your body. I'd like to spend a relaxed evening admiring your body. I am a good looking Hispanic male, 29 yrs. old. Strut your stuff in front of me and have me on my knees begging for more! Reply if you are 20-40 yrs. old. Please enclose photo (will return) and phone #. No phonies please. Reply CU! Box SP113.

Small endowed?

This hot endowed bottom would love to meet small-endowed men who would pound their small manhood into my accommodating butt. I am 41, 5'11", 165 pounds, brown thinning hair, moustache. Total confidence assured. An explicit letter and photo will get mine. Reply CU! Box SP114.

I'll Shine Your Shoes

Apprentice bootblack seeks huge-endowed master for hands-on training and demonstration sessions. Spit polish finish. Age, race unimportant, equipment and commanding attitude a must. I am handsome, young-looking, early forties, slender, smooth, pretty body. Reply CU! Box SP115.

Photo Play

If you have some positive attribute that you would like showing me and my camera drop me a line. Neither sex nor total nudity are mandatory. I am B/M, 31, 5'10", handsome and taking my 1st photog class. Reply Boxholder, Box 11133, SF 94101.

Gay Divorcee

But it still takes two to tango; or have I got semicolons for you. I live in Marin; work in the city; drive a Toyota Tercel. Non-competitive, I love: swimming in Bass Lake; backpacking Evolution country; trail running Palomarin; biking down Mt. Vision, and up, puff, puff; chasing frisbees at San Gregorio (sans swimsuit). I'm 5'8", 135 lbs., 41, very fit. Last book read: Ballard's "Day of Creation." I swing to Sweelinck and Nina Simone; laugh with Laurel and Hardy; cry with Four Last Songs. You might even find me on stage at a certain Sunday tea dance (hold the petit-fours), though I'd really rather climb Mt. Rainier or publish my own short stories. So if you're adventurous of spirit, open of heart, an active lover of the greater wilds, please send a friendly (smiling, handshake) letter. Reply CU! Box SP116.

Let's Have Fun

I'm looking for someone to enjoy those wonderful sun drenched days at the beach, home cooked dinners, outdoor cafes, biking in the park, cinema, travel. How about some sex. Let's take it a step at a time. I am 27, 5'9", 140 lbs., med. build, I work out, lt. brown, blue, handsome boy/man type. In creative field. HIV pos. but adjusting and living the best I can — you not over 40, fun, good looking, good shape and want to share good times. After all this is no dress rehearsal. Reply letter, phone, photo. Reply CU! Box SP117.

Contra Costa Guy Seeks the Same

Attractive GWM, newly out and safe, would like to meet another inexperienced GWM for friendship and a possible relationship. I'm straight appearing, 26, 5'9", 148 lbs., with brown hair and eyes. I'm honest, caring, outgoing but shy. You should be younger, masculine, clean cut, in good shape and into monogamy. Not into drugs, smoking, drinking or the bar scene. Let's meet and get to know each other. Please Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 27474, Concord, CA 94527.

Join me for the Meaningful Life

Good looking Chinese came from Asia with very conservative cultural background hopes to find someone who can appreciate the big difference between the two worlds. I am 5'10", 140#, 32 years old, professional, witty, quiet and shy. I like to spend nights at home instead of partying all the time. If you are GWM around my age and don't smoke or do the drug, please send the picture with your telephone. I will open my heart for you. Reply CU! Box SP118.

Lefty Seeks Lefty

I am a 33-year-old man of socialist/feminist persuasion who loves the beach, dinners out, movies, travel, political forums and demonstrations. I am proud of and comfortable with my gayness but have never liked the gay bar/"fashionable" scene. I am an attractive public interst attorney (re: perpetually financially unstable) looking for a non-smoker who can relate to most of this ad. Reply CU! Box SP119.

Bored with Celibacy

I'm 43, 190, 6'1", HIV-, brown hair,white moustache, hazel eyes, and educated (very educated). I'm outgoing, shy, introverted, extroverted, quiet, outspoken — in short, a Gemini. I have only had safe sex for years, but not with a monogamous partner which is what I want. I like men my age or slightly older who are not into the Castro air-head syndrome (I dream of accountants in brown suits — sometimes with wingtips, even). I am traveled, like theatre, cooking, simple things, eating out, and sex. I am a passive partner in bed. I like Teutons, Slavs, anglos, Celts, Semites (especially Arabs), and Scots (red or bown hair will bring out my animal instincts). In my former days I found a lot of men like this at the Boot Camp; if there's anyone out there, let's communicate. Reply CU! Box SP120.

Romance Plus

GWM, 36, 5'11", 150 lbs., handsome, clean-cut type, career-oriented, conservative lifestyle but not attitude, HIV neg., bottom. Partner wanted for dating and safe sex. Light drink and smoke OK. Various interests include music, dancing, movies, exercise. Love friends and city life but desire the companionship and physical closeness of someone special. Will respond to your picture and letter. Reply CU! Box SP121.

Accepts Spinoza, Wittgenstein, Sartre

Enjoys comedy, horror, porn... Also — Tina, Mick, Sade, Simply Red, Hall & Oates, Santana, Prokoviev, Beethoven — Gary Larson, John Cleese... GWM, 28, 5'9", 150 lbs., hairy, clean shaven, considered good looking — partial to Asian, Latin "types," but similar influences, outlook, more important. No drugs, non or light drinkers, 21-35, into showers, hot tubs, 69, lube, J/O.... Interesting letter, photo, gets mine. Reply CU! Box SP122.

YAVIS?

That's a psychobabble acronym for Young, Attractive, Verbal, Intelligent, Successful. I'm a 34-year-old physician, somewhat "YAVIS" myself, being well educated, bilingual, with a nice body from swimming regularly. I'm a handsome, HIV-negative non-smoker. 5'7", 135 lbs. I enjoy dialogue, romance, fiction, theater, musicals, Gershwin-genre music and medicine. I seek a YAVIS type male (not strictly necessary, though) who is affable, sensible, literate, playful, good looking, toned and HIV negative. Prefer non-smokers. Respond with photo (returned): Reply Boxholder, P.O.B. 590742, SF 94159.

Idiot-Savant?

Classical musician sought by philosophical GWM grad student for loving relationship. An ear for your talents, a partner for your ambition is near. Reply CU! Box SP123.

I Like Ass

This top, GWM, 38, 6'5", 190 pounds, brown hair (moustache-chest) is looking for nice buns to play with. I love to look at, touch, massage and tickle a tight, well formed ass. Light spanking optional (no heavy pain). Safe sex follows. If you have nice buns and love having them played with and admired, please reply. Your photo and letter gets mine. Reply CU! Box SP124.

Positively Positive

Seropositive GWM feels good and has a positive, practical, optimistic outlook on life. Mid 50's, 5'10", 160#, hairy, sensible, sensitive, masculine seeks someone similar — friend, buddy, lover — for all the old familiar reasons. F/A/P, G/P, hot and horny. Also enjoy home life, gardening, good food and music. Please, no drugs, no smoke. Faded foto appreciated, will return. Reply Boxholder, Box 31134, SF 94131.

Discrete Man

Very handsome (married man), professional, uncut, seek uncut discrete, masculine (mid-thirties) buddy for passionate ongoing safe, friendship. I'm 35 yr 5'11", 190 lbs. masculine, body builder. HIV- likeable, shy. Reply with photo to: Reply CU! Box SP125.

Are Your Ready

to meet somene new? I'm ready to meet you! I'm an attractive GWM in great shape, 33, 5'10", 155, br/blu, seropositive, very healthy and optimistic. You're outgoing, friendly, good-looking, in good shape, and safe sex conscious. I love the outdoors, hikinmg, films, and dabbling in local politics. What about you? Please respond with photo and phone number. Reply CU! Box SP126.

Rare and Beautiful

GWM writer/athlete, manly, serious, warm, creative, sensuous head-turner, 42, 5'10", 152#, HIV neg., ash brown hair, sage green eyes, defined hard body (8% body fat, reat abs/legs), hairy, spirited, hung. Seeking monogamous, loving GWM 30-55, tall, lean, fit, dark haired, hairy, hung. We value integrity, intelligence, wit, sensitivity, fitness, cleanliness, intimacy and sharing some but not all interests, providing joint/individual balance. Mine inclue serenity, film, jazz, cooking, football, plants, tennis, hiking, spirituality, growth, after glow, sunshine. Marin native. Distance no problem unless you've city tunnelvision. Photo/letter. Reply Boxholder, POB 664, Kentfield, CA 94914.

Come Blow Out My Candles

and make my wish come true. I'd like to meet a serious relationship oriented man who is honest, communicative, romantic, spontaneous, intelligent, sexual, fun, creative, and hairy. I'm intelligent, attractive, possess a good heart, adventurous, imaginative, multifaceted, giving, stable, sexual, and known for sometimes having a caustic wit. I'm also tall (you don't need to be), in my mid-twenties, and like men 25 to 40. I'm HIV negative and a non-smoker and would appreciate the same. If I sound compatible or I'm a match, write and make my wish come true! Reply CU! Box SP127.

Big Bears Wanted

Husky, burly types wanted for pleasurable, uninhibited, safe sexual fun. I'm 40, 5'9", 150 lbs., brn hair, smooth and clean shaven. Not looking for

THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE OUR SEXUAL AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

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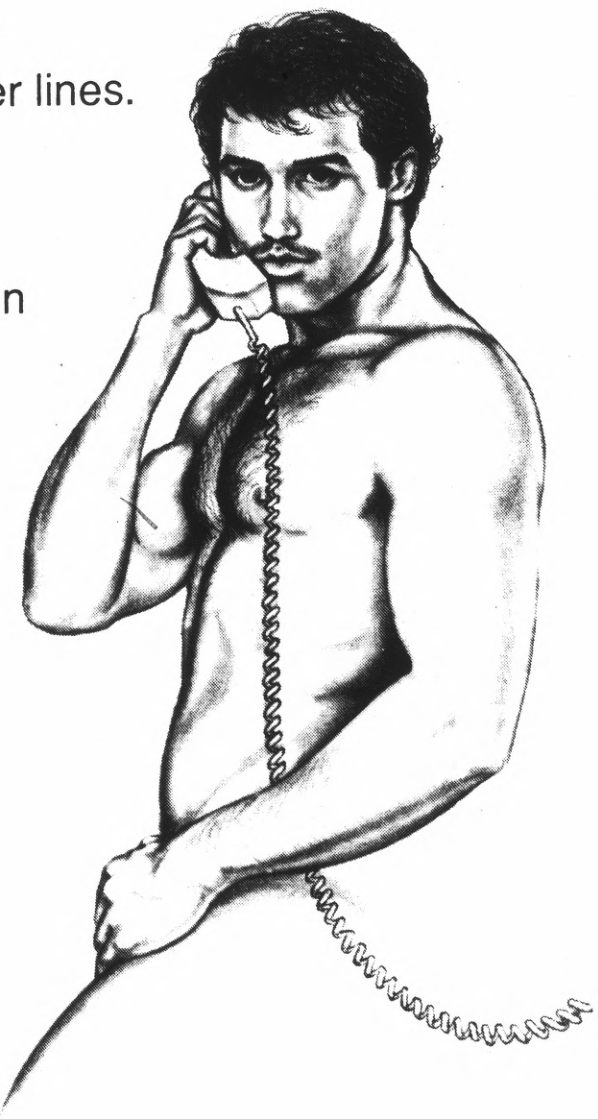

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a lover, just a stable, non-smoking, big, healthy guy who knows how to have fun. Hairy bellies a plus. Reply Boxholder, 125, 2261 Market St., SF 94114.

Downwardly Mobile

GW college student, 25, 5'9", 145 lbs. with punk, leftist, and masochistic tendencies seeks sane white or Latino man, my height or taller, masculine, adventurous. Drop the line. Reply CU! Box SP128.

Let Me Ride

I am black, handsome, hung guy who wants a special person to let me ride his tail. I use condoms. If you want a warm and sensual experience with this 33-year-old man drop me a line with a photo and phone. Reply CU! Box SP129.

Khaki

No, not SOMA/Eagle drag; pleated trousers, perhaps accentuated by a pair of Bass Weejuns are my idea of a hot uniform. I am a well-educated (Ivy) businessman seeking a GWM who is: attractive, intelligent, average build, compassionate, gentle, has a great sense of humor, and can effectively communicate thoughts and feelings. I prefer men who are 30-45, non-smokers, sincere, honest, unpretentious, romantic (I love surprises), and who feel as comfortable in big business "uniforms" as they do in jeans and sneakers. Me: GWM, 38, 6', 215 lbs., salt & pepper hair, moustache; enjoy quiet dinners, travel, movies, bridge, stimulating conversation and cuddling. Photo not necessary but appreciated (will return). Reply CU! Box SP130.

Warm, Masculine and Loving

Are you a happy, stable GWM, 30 to 45 with average height and weight? Are you interested in a monogamous relationship? Are you attracted to a man with qualities similiar to mine? I'm a good looking, sexy guy, 42, 5'10", 150#, HIV-neg., brn/brn, clean shaven, porofessional, non-smoker. I have an easy going, even-tempered optimistic personality. I'm affectionate, versatile and have a strong sense of integrity and humor. I have lots of interests to share (outdoors, theater, movies) but I realize we'll each have our own individual interests as well. I enjoy a balanced and positive lifestyle that values security but definitely includes adventure. And I've got a great smile! What about you? Your photo (optional) wil be appreciated and returned. Reply CU! Box SP131.

J/O Obsession

Share kinks, fantasies, experiences with healthy, shy, non-mainstream J/O artist, 38, 5'11", 145. Letter, phone, in person. Reply Boxholder, 2215-R Market St., Box 455, SF 94114.

Got It All!

Trim body. Intelligence. Healthy expression of feelings. Meaningful career. I'm comfortable in blending passionate sexual play and child-like fun with discussing disagreements and negotiating compromises. (Yes, handling conflict is inevitable and scary; also intimate and rewarding). I'm an attractive GWM: Psychology professional, 34, HIV-negative. Seeking whole, healthy, handsome men for conversation, fun, and commitment. Also, seeking companion to share Sunday afternoon Berkeley Rep. season. Six plays for $80. Include photo. No drugs or smokers. Reply CU! Box SP132.

PWA/Special Men

Seeking relatively balanced, uncomplicated, artistically inclined individuals w/determination for short-term joint projects in expressive poetry, painting & sculpture which illuminates an understanding to society of the courage, spirit & hope that we contribute through our struggles with life's challenges. This boy scout is tall, attractive, PWARC, 38, well-built, masculine yet caring, a lover of wit, wisdom, nature, peace, consciousness, and meaningul persuits of thought and love that transcend the barriers of time. Please respond. Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 460132, SF 94114-9992.

Blue Chip WASP Seeks Blue Chip Asian

Youthful, boyish, good looking, masculine, non-smoker, professional, blond, blue, clean shaven, 5'8", 135, body by nautilus, mind by law school. Healthy, intelligent, responsible, open, gregarious, unpretentious, perceptive, affectionate, upbeat, fun sense of humor. Enjoy theatre, movies, foreign films, entertaining and reading. Seeking a monogamous-type Asian 35-45 with qualities and interest compatible with mine. Reply with letter, and photo if possible (return). Reply CU! Box SP133.

Physique & Commitment

Intense, lustful, professional physical man, 40, 5'9", 180, solid muscled physique, seeks similar health minded grounded man for dating relationship/potential committed monogamy. We've been through the carefree, hedonistic 70's and are ready to explore & further develop our real stuff as men of the 80's & beyond. I'm a gregarious, put it right out there guy — a complete giver who seeks the nourishment & mutual support of a man who's ready for a true, complete male relationship — one that's based on integrity & truth. But let's not forget our playful, adventurous side. I work hard to play hard and want you to feel freedom of spirit to be you — the you that you know you truly are! Reply with photo (I guarantee its return) Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 460585, SF 94146. Let's go for it, guy! We both need to give to one another.

Looking For Someone New?

Handsome, but not an Adonis — nice build, but not Mr. Universe. Don't belong to a gym, but do aerobics at home. I'm 30, 5'11", 155#, blond. Friendly, funny, personable, degreed. Non-smoker who likes good food, theatre, the arts, the outdoors, and similarly attractive, health-conscious, sensual men between 30-40 y.o. Dark hair is always a plus, but not an absolute. Letter and photo appreciated to Reply Boxholder, 2215-R Market St., #833, SF 94114.

Over Daddy's Knee

Boy 30 needs Daddy for over the knee spanking with Daddy's big hand. Boy is GWM, 5'9", 150, FR active, GR passive (condom required) into fantasy — not just pain. Prefer bigger, older, hairy, uncut men, but Daddy attitude is most important. Send photo and instructions to your boy. Reply CU! Box SP134.

Looking for a Friendship

that can grow into a loving, intimate, and monogamous relationship? So am I. I want to meet other quality men who value being responsible, trustworthy, sincere, and emotionally open (i.e., "I feel..."). I am 27, GWM (6', 165 lbs., brn/brn), handsome, muscular, masculine, educated, and very healthy (HIV-). I love to: laugh and enjoy life, work toward personal growth, set and achieve goals, and make passionate love. I also enjoy swimming, running, weight training, reading, the outdoors, film, music, and close friends. I don't drink, do drugs, or smoke. If you have similar qualities, values, and interests, and are between 22 and 32, please send a detailed letter and photo. Reply CU! Box SP135.

Nice Buns!

I have them, good looking GWM 6'0"/180/Bl/bl/smooth/clean cut and masculine, HIV- looking for attractive, masculine GWM, tops for afternoon fun. We are both friendly, intelligent and well groomed. We are also both non-substance abusers. I am also Fr a/p. Married or bi-men welcomed to respond. Photo/phone to Reply Boxholder, Suite p-343, P.O. Box 11908, SF 94102.

Golden Days

Happy, handsome, hung, well-built, clean-shaven, blond bottom, 6'2" tall, 179 lbs., HIV+ with positive attitude attracted to happy,handsome, hung, well-built, clean-shaven, blond tops to persue physical emotional and intellectual needs. Prefer guys above 5'10", ages 35-55 who don't drink, smoke, use drugs and practice safer sex. Phone and photo. Reply CU! Box SP136.

Muscular Asian Top

Seeking attractive GAM or GWM into body worship. I have a trim hot muscular body that loves attention. Write letter with your fantasy, photo, and phone. All replies answered. Reply Boxholder, 601 Van Ness Ave., Suite #E3328, SF 94102.

It's Tough

Being single after an eight year relationship. Miss exploring new places, cooking simple dinner for two, breakfast in bed with you and the paper Sunday mornings, having someone to share my day. Don't miss being a servant, making all the decisions, waiting forever for a workaholic to come home. Am a GWM, late 40's (appearing younger I'm told) 5'10", 148, Brn hair, greying at temples, blue eyes. Giving up contacts in favor of glasses (is this middle age?), trim, exercise regularly, attractive professional in a public service job (i.e.: I will never be rich). Looking for financially secure GWM in his 40's, attractive and fit, who can honestly say he is "nice" and would like to do things together. Sex would be wonderful if it happens. Enjoy touching, holding, safe sex, companionship. Want to expand my circle of friends, most of whom are couples. Looking for someone to be with in all ways. Reply CU! Box SP137.

Unusual

Very attractive and educated nice guy, HIV-, 34, 5'8", 150#, hairy, muscles. Have a lover but am looking for sensual, safe intermissions from time to time — and/or maybe even a friend outside of bed. "Type" not as important as sincerity & sensuality. Inexperienced OK. Let's exchange photos! Reply Boxholder, PO Box 31622, SF 94131-0622.

Not the Usual

Nice looking, masculine, 39 y.o. GWM, low key lifestyle, not all the "usual" interests and affectations. I am 5'11", 150, slim, moderately hairy, moustache, of smaller than average endowment; would like to meet unpretentious friend/buddy or sex partner, any race, who is good looking, slim, under 40, sincere, masculine, but gentle. My interests are simple, not avant garde. I like nature, walking, hiking, city and country, massage, music, movies, TV, relaxing, personal growth, caring, sensual touching, good looking men, sometimes aloneness sometimes togetherness. Men with dark features are especially sexy. Reply CU! Box SP138.

Scratch a Cynic

and find a romantic. Maybe that's why I've dropped my usual skepticism and written this ad. Handsome, literate, fit GWM, 32, looking for friends and (ultimately) a "significant other." I've come to cherish my independence, but it isn't much without sharing and honest talk. Those with warmth, intelligence, wit, and honesty — and all cynical romantics — please apply. Photo appreciated. Reply CU! Box SP139.

Flattop seeks Flattop

I'm 6'7", have flattop and am interested in meeting men who are interested in hair. Short haircuts are the best. Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 3282, SF 94119.

Have Oil, Will Travel

Beginner in Esalen-style massage, GWM, 35, 5'7", 146 lbs., would like to exchange massages with others of any skill level or massage style. Other beginners welcome. Gym-toned bodies not required. A rich sensual experience awaits us both, so please Reply CU! Box SP140 and tell me a little about yourself and the things you enjoy.

Home and Security

Handsome 40 y/o GWM, 6'1", 165 lbs., seeks financially secure professional man. I am loyal, romantic, sensitive, health conscious and spiritually oriented. I have a proclivity for tall, smooth, fair-skinned, trim, clean-shaven men 35-45, who possess nice-shaped butts. Even keeled, peaceful and relaxed people much preferred. I dream of becoming your mate, companion, business partner and friend. I want to share with you sensuality, intimacy, inner journeys and deep feelings. Your picture would be appreciated. Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 5224, SF 94101.

Dominant Hypnotist Wanted

Cute Italian/Portuguese male, blk hair, brn eyes, 5'8½", 146 lbs., loves to be hypnotized for fun! Past experiences have been great! Am an excellent and obedient subject. If you want to hypnotize me, drop me a note with your name and phone number and we'll get together! I have a smooth body and am able to go very deep with the right commands! Thanks. Reply CU! Box SP141.

Lick You All Once

Hot 26, 5'8", 160#, brown haired stud seeks muscular aggressive guy or daddy type as friend and playmate. Leather, J/O, tit play, massage, athletic gear, healthy foods, exercise, beach, arcades, movies, dance music, good nights sleep, fulfillment with work are part of fun, positive and healthy lifestyle. Partner is comfortable with my HIV+ status. No cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, unsafe sex. South Bay and SF areas. Reply Boxholder, PO Box 64403, Sunnyvale, CA 94086-4403.

Mildly Furry Grad Stud

In the July of life, looking to make pretty music with another man. Altho Midwesterner, am often mistaken for Middle Easterner. Only men with or without moustache, please! Send less-then-complimentary photo to: Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 40150, Berkeley 94704.

East Bay Only

WM,30 seeks very intelligent, outdoors-oriented man (any race) as lover and/or friend. HIV-neg.; safe but sensual. Prefer 30s, non-smoker. Freedom to travel and explore the West a plus. Detailed response elicits same. Reply Boxholder, PO Box 1692, Oakland 94612.

Leather Teddy Bear

Baseball cap/boxer shorts, very handsome, hot, healthy/moustache, successful, masculine, affectionate, hairy, fun, & hung. Versatile, top or bottom. Seek another similar hot man. Some intelligence, humor desirable. Photo/phone # ans 1st. 3-ways OK. Reply CU! Box SP142.

Younger Seeks Older

I'm a financially comfortable Japanese straight-A premedical student: slim, attractive, bright, sincere, cute, but mature. I play the piano, program synthesizers, paint pictures professionally, and have several medals in swimming, a blackbelt in judo, an instructor license in diving, etc. I need a good friend (not a one-night-a-week-sexbody!) who's a highly educated old WM, over 55, warm, thoughtful, monogamous, and conservative (i.e., you don't play with strippers and/or prostitutes). I don't smoke, drink, or use drugs. Let's exchange letters with photo. It'll be worth it. Reply CU! Box SP143.

Class Act

Shy, handsome Anglo, 29, 6', 180 lbs., blk hair, blu eyes, moust, hairy chest, swimmers build, lift weights, bike & jog regularly, business minded & very level heded. Turned on to life and... Armatrading, Depeche Mode, Voice Fram, Vivaldi, Ocho Rios, Montego Bay, Kannapali, Cancun, Bultaco, Montessa, Countach, Cruise, the Jette, good chemistry, monogamy, one on one, the enterprise, opportunity and you? Reply w/photo Reply CU! Box SP144.

The Manly Art

GWM, 27, 5'9", 160, seeks another aggressive, in-shape man to put on the gloves, put up the dukes and box some hard rounds. Not looking to multilate or behave like a human punching bag, just fun tension-releasing workouts with a rival/buddy. You should have a little experience and pursue many other physical or cultural activities. Reply CU! Box SP145.

Bondage Bottom

Sought by attractive, enlightened, caring top. Must have interest in expanding present limits sensually. Me: 35, 5'10", 165, red-brown/hazel. Moderately hairy. Mediterranean. You: smooth, similar proportions, into shaving, discipline, W/S, exhibitionism, affection and proud of being who you are. Non-smoker or drinker, any race or nationality. Respond with clear description and peppery letter with photo and phone # to: Reply CU! Box SP146.

Partners in Crime

Handsome GWM, 36, 5'11", 160#, HIV-neg., not into bar scene, seeks safe-sex, non-drug using "partner-in-crime." I've eroticized the dark side: comic-book super villains, skin-tight gear, leather, hoods, gloves, tights and verbal menace. You get off on dominance and submission as a top and a bottom, and easily get into uninhibited safe-and-sane fantasy play. You are healthy, attractive and loving. Reply CU! Box SP147.

GBM in the Middle?

GWM, 52, attractive, educated, healthy, lonely, and lazy. Would like to meet middle-aged black male who is handsome, smart, lean, bored, politically cynical, a survivor of old SF or new NY. Likes to talk about anything and has an interest in something valuable. Not obsessed with sex, but likes it now and then. For drives, dinners, visits to LA/SD, projects, friendships. Reply CU! Box SP148.

Exhibitionist

Handsome, from Europe 35 y.o. GWM, hairy, voyeur, seeks the same. Size, age not important, but must have hairy ass, legs. Reply if possible with photo. Reply CU! Box SP149.

Tired of Best Friends

Wearied by dead end attachments. Ready to make change; want to plug in. Seek bright, boyishly attractive, emotionally competent, late-twenties to mid-thirties man for physical/emotional intimacy. Am 34, very verbal, an attractive public interest lawyer. Photo requested, returned. Reply CU! Box SP150.

You and Me

GWM, 34, 5'10", 160, brn/brn. HIV neg. work-toned body (carpenter) well-toned mind (thinker) of European descent. I'm politically aware, sexually versatile, genetically handsome and financially stable. I travel off the beaten path in search of adventure, individuals, and the passions and joys of life. Film is the next best thing to life and friends the next best thing to lovers. I feel most accomplished through my work and art and I'm eager to feel that same satisfaction through a healthy, loving relationship. You should be 30-40 possess a strong body and mind with similar background and interests. Republicans, couch spuds, users and abusers don't bother. All responses with photo and phone receive reply... I promise. Reply CU! Box SP151.

Average Looks

That seems to be the average opinion, hopefully your opinion will be above average. I'm 43, 5'6", 155 lbs., c — 39", w — 30", blond, green/grey eyes, HIV neg., uncut, average, and versatile. I have had two long term relationships, have lived in the area about 20 years, am "professionally" employed, and prefer "classical" music including opera. You are definately HIV neg., versatile (not a "top"), stable, reasonably attractive and well employed and can be happy with a low-key home life. Send photo for mine. Reply CU! Box SP152.

Good looking, responsible GWM, 38, 5'7", 145#, toned-body, brn, blu, HIV+, healthy. Sensitive, intuitive, good communicator, fun loving. Likes movies, outdoors, travelling, fun times & quiet times. Seeks same for dating & possible relationship. Your picture gets mine. Will return yours. No heavy drugs or drinking. Reply CU! Box SP153.

Feet

Attractive, muscular mid-30's guy, 6', 185 lbs., into bare feet eager to meet others. If you can dig your feet serviced (or would like to do the same), write with descripton and ideas. Novices, curious as well as experienced welcome. All replies answered. Reply CU! Box SP154.

Virgin Ad

Not for size queens. Cut, masculine furry good-looking guy seeks (prefers) un-cut, smooth muscled masculine buddy. GWM, very young 35, healthy, 5'11", 170#, light brown, moustache, hzl. HIV+. Like the beach, outdoors. Have worked out almost a year getting serious results. Open to relationship or... Send photo if possible (will return) and detailed letter to Reply CU! Box SP155.

Unconventional

I'm good looking, GWM, Art Therapist, tall, trim, healthy, relationship oriented, unpretentious, non-smoker. I follow my own philosophy, use my bicycle for transportation, read at Cafe Flore, dislike television and politics, sunbathe naked at Baker Beach, laugh a lot, dance alone at The Stud, iconoclast, enjoy Haight better than Castro, Rainbow better than Safeway, thrift shops better than Macy's, more sensual than sexual, consider myself the world's best kisser. Seeking same, 25-40, for dating and whatever develops. No form letters or substance abusers. Photo? Reply Boxholder, Box 640444, SF 94164.

Bodybuilder Seeks Fireplug

GWM, 39, 5'10", 215 lbs. muscular (49" chest, 34"waist, 18"arms, etc.), brown hair, blue eyes, sincere, masculine, good looking, educated; seeks similar qualities in a shorter man 25-35 years. I work out six days a week; like arts, nature, history and more. Smooth skin a special turn on but not required. Letter with photo will get same. Reply CU! Box SP156.

Attn: Hot, Horny Bottoms

Tall, good looking GWM seeks hot, horny bottoms 21-40 for good sex. I'm HIV+. Prefer HIV+, ARC, AIDS. Safe, of course. I'm single, nice view apartment, convenient. I'm masculine, ex-model, happy, sane, bright, mellow top. One night stand, or relationship both OK. I'm affectionate and sexually dominate so appreciate hot bottoms who can enjoy my attention. All replies answered. You hot butt, pretty face, good kissing all a plus. Reply Boxholder, Box 14233, SF 94114.

North Bay Fun Wanted

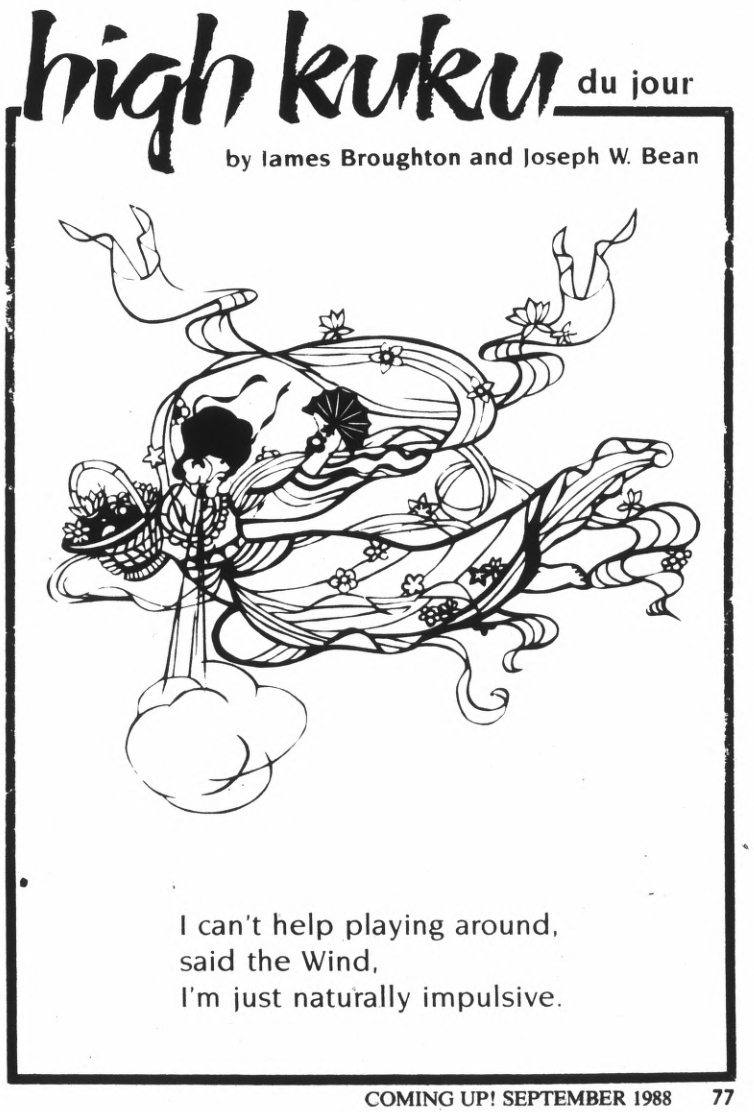
GWM, 22, 5'9", 165 lbs., br/bl, masculine, and sexy, yet sensitive man. Seeks gd. looking GWM 18-35 top. Hairy chest, moustache a plus. Would like to have some casual yet discreet sex with 1 or more sexy hung men. The bigger the better! Write to Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 15092, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-7092. All replies with photos will get answered and photos returned.

Yo! Chasers!

Chubby GWM seeks a medium-built chaser of quality (a little double-entendre there) for whatever develops. I'm 5'11", 265 unexercised lbs., 44 years old, brown curly hair (some gray), medium-furrish, bright, non-stodgy, friendly (Hi there!), absolutely not into pain, and horny. You're 38-50 yrs. (flexible), weight proportionate to height (please), into chubby guys, functional dick, in charge in bed, tobacco-free, and horny. Committed relationship preferred, shallow romp considered. Write: Cramped Resident, Box 156, 2215-R Market Street, SF 94114.

4 X 4

Wanted other guys 20-40 with 4x4's. Couples, singles, groups, hot, horny, handsome guy, 5'9", 155 lb., sun kissed, erotic situations fulfilled or just a good time out there, redwoods, crashing surf, dry hillsides, seven creeks without bridges. Reply CU! Box SP160.



Wire-Rim Glasses
Lean. good-looking men with wire-rim glasses turn me on! East Bay man, good-looking, 150 lb., 5'9". Wants to get together with you for fun, safe, sensual sex. Reply CU! Box SP161.

Sorta Shy City Guy
Sorta handsome GWM 6'2", 175 HIV neg. 32 seeks same for discrete fun. 30 or younger, sensitive, professional/positive outlook, sense of humor, non-smoking, and open minded are big pluses. Spectator sports, dancing, new music, movies, and clean partying are definites. All else negotiable. A photo and physical description appreciated with reply. Reply CU! Box SP162.

GWM Seeks GAM
Good-looking GWM, 40 years old, 5'8", 140 lbs., beard, seeks GAM any age for relationship. Must be sincere & non-smoker. Quality is important not height or weight. Send photo & letter to Reply CU! Box SP163.

Try Me
Very good looking 28-yr.-old Asian. Tight body with great buns! I enjoy tennis, volleyball and romantic evenings. I like music and dancing but not the bar scene. I also have many other interests. Attracted to athletic, in-shape, collegiate men, 25-38 yrs. old who are financially & mentally stable. Your picture gets mine. Reply CU! Box SP164.

One Good Man Wanted
GWM is interested in a more serious relationship. I'm 28, blond, trim, non-smoker, non-religious, libertarian. My interests include music, movies and theater. I'm seeking a special guy to spend time with. Please include photo with letter. Reply Boxholder, 2215-R Market St., #140-C, SF 94114.

Still Looking
WM, 5'6", dark blond, hazel eyes, 154 lbs., looking for someone to share life with. Interests varied, camping, theatre, country western dancing, many more. I'm very romantic & monogamous. I work out 5 to 6 days a week. At present I smoke, but don't drink or do drugs. Light drinking OK, but no drugs. I live in the East Bay, but am moving to the city. If interested drop me a line with your ph #. I'm 39 and would like to meet someone around my age. Reply Boxholder, 444 San Lorenzo, CA 94580.

Tantric Partner Sought
for loving exploration of sex beyond orgasm. I'm handsome, muscular, successful, 5'8", 148#, 35 and ready for some cosmic sexual ecstasy with the right guy. Let's take our sex energy to new levels of pleasure and awareness. Please respond with photo. Reply CU! Box SP167.

Marriage Minded
Intelligent, intense, creative, good-hearted, down to earth, fun loving professional W/M, 36, who enjoys intimacy on a par with independence and sensuality as much as discretion, seeks a quality individual for a long-term, loving, monogamous relationship. I love my work and my life and am looking for someone to create a home and a future with. I am 5'9", 155, brn/brn, handsome, hairy, HIV neg. You are communicative, compassionate as well as passionate, are HIV neg., have hair, eyes, a body, a good sense of humor, and a willingness to occasionally fight over whose turn it is to do (or to hire someone to do) the dishes. Letter and photo (returned) to: Reply Boxholder, PO Box 20896, Oakland 94620.

First Things First
Isn't advertising for love awesome? I'd rather start by finding a tennis partner. If you ski too I won't run this ad this winter. Depending on all those personal variables, we might like each other enough to become friends, even sex partners, possibly lovers. We'd have a great story for those who ask, "So, how did you two meet?" If these states don't work for us, we'd still have tennis and skiing. Me: bright, passionate, empathetic and open GWM, 5'10", 155#, moustache, early 40's, sophisticated and urbane with a blue-collar streak; strong, masculine style, unpretentious and a nonjudgmental listener. You: 30's, manly, bright, articulate, genuine, my size or smaller. Natural charm and warm intensity count a lot with me. Write w/photo Reply Boxholder, Box 260, 2440 16 St., SF 94103.

Attractive Asian
22, 5'6", 130 lbs., slim, drug free, non-smoker, educated and very friendly. Looking for a warm hearted guy to spend quality time with. Must be honest, romantic, sensitive, caring and into exciting things that life offers. Your photo would be appreciated. Reply CU! Box SP170.

Gentle, creative, sensitive, intelligent, growth-oriented WM, who is occasionally accused of being handsome, would like to meet a similar white or black man, especially if tall or hairy and substance-free. I'm a professional, 37, 5'10", 165, HIV-, with brown hair, beard, moustache, and very blue eyes. Travel, theatre, nature, life exploration and great conversations are some of my interests. I also like kissing, nipples, balls and giving deep oral sex. If interested, please send phone and photo to Reply CU! Box SP171.

Country Dreaming
Weary of urban jungle and considering a more pastoral existence nearby. I'm a 41 y.o. GWM whose main interests are travel, massage, the outdoors, self-growth, healing, and quality relationships. I want to meet people who are sincere, loving, affectionate, nurturing, sensual, growth-oriented and interested in a rural life or already there. If this sparks your interest and you're open to the possibilities, Reply CU! Box SP172.

Friendship/Fun Times
Are you interested in having a friend who's affectionate, sensitive, romantic and possibly getting together for hot, sensual safe sex? So am I! I'm 38, attractive, clean cut, work out regularly, HIV negative. If you want to get together for dinner, a movie, or just an evening of hot sex then write with photo (will be returned) to Reply Boxholder, Box 460112, SF 94146.

This Is Only Half the Story...
Able to hang with good and bad times, able to commit, funny, sensitive, healthy, adventurous, warm, spiritual-minded, like to muse about someone while at Safeway, like together and alone time, love making love and putting care into special beautiful things; 35 y.o., professional, 5'7", 145, d.br., bright hazel, avg. good looks, Italian-Irish. Reply CU! Box SP174.

Size-O-Philes Skip This Ad
As can rough lovers and those who cannot relax back to a gentle touch, an easy, intense cum. My interests are in the less-than-endowed who may be comfortable with my attention to their pleasure, and their attention to my pleasure; someone with the sense to appreciate how safe and singularly satisfying a J/O relationship can be. GWM, beard, 180 lbs., 43 y.o., 5'8", hairy chest. Reply CU! Box SP175.

Schoolboy Lawyer Type
Cute, curious, fun-loving, over-educated but unpretentous, masculine, compassionate, "spiritually" inclined, 34-yr.-old. Have made close friends in my year here, but am looking for an intimacy that only a relationship provides. Enjoy hiking, reading, talking and listening, music, natural history, much else except sports. If you share similar interests and are late-twenties to mid-thirties, why not drop a line and include photo, which I'll return. Reply CU! Box SP176.

Lust to Love
Very good-looking GWM, conceptual designer, entrepreneur, cook, nature lover, wants aggressive, charming, handsome, well-built top/versatile man ages 28-40 for dates and romance. I am 5'9", br/br, and weigh 145 in-shape pounds. I love to camp, hike, bicycle, cuddle, communicate, go to movies, go to bed & have hot sex. A relationship is possible. Please respond with photo (returned) and revealing letter. Reply CU! Box SP177.

Shy Neurotic Pseudo Intellectual
GBM seeks safe sex buddy, friend, lover. I'm 35, 5'11", 165 lbs., bald, bearded — not an altogether bad looking guy with a thick uncut 8" dick. Music, good conversation, and dancing are my passion. I'm an agnostic, non-materialistic, political leftist who neither drinks nor smokes nor does drugs (except for an occasional joint). Though healthy and with a normal blood count, I have reason to believe I carry the AIDS virus. That's me. Now if you're 18 to 35, masculine, versatile, well-built and hung big, have an appreciation for the absurd, are health conscious, and loving Reply CU! Box SP178.

Masculine, handsome, profesional man, HIV neg., 38 (looks 33), blond/blue, 5'9", 180, muscular build (with hairy chest), warm, affectionate, even-tempered personality wants a loving partner in a relationship of equals. I'm athletic, financially secure, educated, emotionally stable, and professionally motivated — and value the same qualities in others. Our interests may be different, but I prefer a handsome masculine White or Latin man who is a non smoker, non (or light) drinker, 21 to 45, HIV neg., collegiate, athletic and physically fit as well as intelligent and caring. Returnable photo appreciated (but optional). Reply CU! Box SP179.

Minister, Priest, Rabbi, or?
I am a clergyman, 40, 5'11", 160, handsome, healthy, warm and affectionate. I enjoy classical music, nature, exercise, travel, beaches, massage, fine food, fireplace cuddling and helping others. I seek a relationship with a warmhearted open minded ministerial type who appreciates discretion (we could not live together) and independence. If this fits and you don't smoke, I would like to hear from you. Reply CU! Box SP180.

Positive, Playful, Optimistic
Being HIV + has led to a greater appreciation of the miracle of life, and the desire to share it. Even amidst the epidemic, these can be the best of times. I'm healthy, hairy, attractive, professional GWM, 5'4", 130 lbs., very young-looking 40's, excellent shape. I work out, jog, cycle; love nature, music, movies, cuddling, laughter, long intimate conversations, psychology. You are non-smoker who values honesty, affection, openness, passionately safe sex. Photo, please. Reply CU! Box SP181.

Relationship
Asian male, 35, looking to meet GWM, 28-48, for companionship. I am stable, humorous and educated. Enjoy movies, dining out and would love to be with that special someone. Hopefully that might be you. Photo will be appreciated & will return. I am healthy and waiting to share my life. Reply CU! Box SP182.

Let's Swap Photos
Have you ever photographed a friend or been photographed nude (or nearly nude)? Let's show each other what we have and possibly trade. If you don't have pictures we can make some. Prefer 19-33, smooth, or light body hair. Reply Boxholder, PO Box 11691, SF 94101.

Bi

BISEXUAL

Seeking Passive Playmates
I'm a WM 40, friendly, sense of humor, OK looks but very low sexual, emotional and physical energy. I'm bored with jacking off by myself and I'm interested in meeting guys/gals/couples for safe, low-key sexual experimentation. Touching not necesary. Open to any ideas. I like very young (18-30), skinny, smooth guys and medium-sized women. Photo appreciated but not necessary. Reply Boxholder, POB 22201, SF 94122.

S

SOCIALGROUPS

Attention! Party Animals
who are into kinky J/O and radical safe sex. Our parties are held on a semi-regular basis in a private SOMA home equipped with a playroom. We turn on to tits, erotic clothing, whipping, clothespins, leather, tattoos, piercings, bound, tied and stretched balls, bondage, clamps, boot licking, suspension, handcuffs, rubber, greasy dick stroking, supportive atmosphere, creative sex play and erotic consciousness. We turn off to wallflowers, yuppie/mainstream types, cocktail hour dish queens; men who are looking for Mr. Right (he will not be invited), and those who have a limited sense of what hot sex and hot men are all about. Parties are small, 20-25 men. We want quality, not quantity. Phone number gets quicker response. September is tit party month. Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 1363, SF 94101.

REPLYING TO A PERSONAL AD: If the advertiser has a CU! Reply Box, send your reply to Coming Up! Personals, 592 Castro, SF 94114. In the lower left hand corner of the envelope place the box number you are answering. Boxes remain open for two months; i.e. this month's ads may be answered through the month of October.

CU! REPLY BOX MAIL PICK-UP: You may pick up your mail every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2-6pm. **Mail will not be given out at any other hours.** If you are unable to pick up your mail during these hours and do not have your own P.O. Box, you must get CU! mail forwarding. Feel free to call us during the regular pick up hours to find out if you have mail, and please limit your calls to these hours! **You must bring picture I.D. to pick up your mail at the office.**

MAIL WILL BE FORWARDED WEEKLY.
BOXES REMAIN ACTIVE FOR TWO MONTHS.

WORD COUNTS: Every word counts! 'A,' 'and,' 'the,' zip codes, PO Boxes, etc. should all be included in your word counts. Count 4 words for "Reply Coming Up! Box #. No refunds. There is a $5 handling charge for any changes on an ad after it has been submitted.

IN PLACING AN AD you must not use names, telephone numbers or street addresses. If you do not have a PO Box, just check "Reply Coming Up! Box" on the form below, and decide whether you wish to pick up the mail or have it sent to you.

Coming Up! hopes that you will submit ad copy in keeping with our general editorial policies. Ads should stress those qualities the advertiser finds compatible rather than target specific lifestyles, races or other aspects in a negative manner. We understand the difference between discrimination and personal preference. If your ad does not fall within the realm of our guidelines, we may notify you and allow you to make the necessary alterations. We reserve the right to edit ads. We reserve the right to reject any ad whatsoever.

HEADLINE: _____

TEXT: _____

_____

_____

_____

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_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____ ☐ **Reply Coming Up! Box**

Total # of Words: _____

☐ Enclose $12 up to 70 words $12.00

☐ Enclose 15 cents per word **over** 70 words:

____ words × 15 cents equals . . . . . _____

☐ Enclose $6 for Reply Box . . . . . _____

☐ Enclose $12 for Reply Box and Mail Forwarding . . . . . _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: $_____

Name _____

Mail Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone (weekdays) _____ **(eves)** _____

You may stop by the office at the below address to fill out a coupon. **We cannot take personals by phone, nor can we accept anonymous ads. All information will be kept confidential.**

Mail Coupon To:
Coming Up! Personals
592 Castro Street
SF, CA 94114

Next Deadline: September 20

"No matter who you are, there is someone for whom you are the perfect match."

What is ComQuest?

ComQuest offers a different, interesting way for gay men to meet compatible friends. Instead of meeting guys of unknown interests and lifestyles face to face at first, possibly in a noisy, dark, smoky bar – or not meeting any guys at all – you will meet guys by phone or by mail who already match many of your preferences (and you theirs) for age, race, personality, lifestyle, physical attributes, interests, safe sex, and local residence. You will have a chance to learn a great deal about each other before committing to a meeting face-to-face. You can even exchange photos.

We aren't selective, so that you can be!

We welcome and can make satisfactory matches for men having a wide variety of tastes and lifestyles. Most of our members are clean living, health conscious, responsible, successful men who are open to some kind of a long term relationship.

Here, we pat ourselves on the back.

Introduction services like ComQuest are popping up all over the place in response to the increasing desire of health conscious gay men everywhere to find long term, meaningful, safe relationships. ComQuest pioneered in the field of gay matching in 1982 by providing:

- A complete and detailed questionnaire (128 descriptive items).
- Complete confidentiality (we don't sell mailing lists).
- The ability to prevent, or "veto," matches having undesired traits.
- The ability to rank the importance of each group of traits in computing your matches.
- Matches only with those living in your local (or preferred) area.
- A **large** selection of gay men from each region.
- Affordable cost (fees start a $20).
- A money-back guarantee of satisfaction.
- A guaranteed number of matches.
- A guaranteed order response time.

Here's a great idea for travelers!

Make friends at your destination before you leave. ComQuest has large membership in each of the following major cities: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Ft. Lauderdale, Houston, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, Tampa, and Washington, D.C. If you would like to meet compatible guys from a region not covered by this questionnaire, call us and ask for the our nationwide application and Brochure. Our number is 800-633-6969.

How Does It Work?

Take a look at the questionnaire and you will see just how specific you can get as to the types of men you can meet and the types of relationships you can specify.

ComQuest's matching system, using a high speed computer, analyzes your detailed questionnaire responses and compares each of your weighted "ideal match" descriptive responses with the corresponding "self" descriptive responses of all current members, and vice versa, keeping track of the members having the highest matching scores.

What Does It Cost, And What Do I Get?

This is the best part. For only **$20** we will process your application, make your contact information (if any) available to other members who you may contact you, and send you your first five matches consisting of the contact information of the five ComQuest members most closely matching your preferences (and you theirs).

You may order additional sets of matches at $10 per set. Remitances over $20 will automatically be applied toward additional matches. Those having or desiring less popular or less common traits (heavy smoker, over 50, under 21, very heavy, non Caucasion) and those circling more than 20 vetoes on the questionnaire should limit their orders to 5 matches ($20) at first. You will be informed of the number of additional matches available when you receive your order.

If we cannot immediately provide the number of matches you order, you will receive credit for the difference (at $2 per missing match) applicable to future orders.

Your membership is for three months but is automatically extended with any order or by request free of charge. During your membership you may cancel or reinstate your contact information (free), alter your questionnaire ($5) or contact listing ($5), and order additional matches ($2 per match) at any time.

How Can I Be Sure I'll Get My Money's Worth?

ComQuest has received unsolicited testimonials each week from members who have found lovers or who are otherwise quite pleased with our service. The names of 20 compatible guys cost less than a typical night on the town. However, **if you are not satisfied, you will receive a prompt refund of your membership fee!**

How Long Will It Take?

Most orders are filled within a week. If the difference between your postmark date and ours is more than 14 days, we will include an extra $5.00 credit voucher with your order, applicable to future ComQuest orders. All correspondence from ComQuest will be mailed in plain envelopes.

OK, I'll Try It. How Do I Fill Out This Form?

This is the hard part. But it can be a lot of fun, too. It is very important to do it right. If you do not follow the instructions we cannot guarantee the results. **Carefully read the instructions below. Failure to follow them will result in poor matches.**

Questionnaire Instructions

Step 1. Enter your mailing address.

Step 2. Enter your contact information.

Step 3. Describe yourself by circling the word **me** beside each descriptive item which is a true description of yourself. You should circle at least one **me** under each category. Circle more than one if appropriate. Forms with incomplete self descriptions cannot be proceessed and will be returned.

Step 4. Describe your ideal match by circling the word **veto**, **no**, **ok,** or **yes** beside each and every item (including those by which you circle **me**) to indicate to what extent you would want that item to be true of your match. Circle exactly one of these responses per item, as follows:

Circle **yes** if you would like for that description to be true for your match. This is a vote for a trait – not a guarantee.

Circle **ok** if you don't care one way or the other. This is an abstention – no vote either way. Lines left blank count as **ok**.

Circle **no** if you would not like for that description to be true for your match. This is a vote against – not a disqualification. Treat it as a "maybe."

Circle **veto** if you want no matches with anyone for whom that description is true, even if they have other desirable qualities. This is a disqualification, and is not affected by category rank. Treat it as an absolute "no." We recommend that you circle between 10 and 20 vetos to restrict age, race, residence, and other important traits of your matches.

Step 5. Rank the categories. The questionnaire is divided into 16 categories. To insure that your responses on less important items will not override your responses on the more important items, you must indicate which items are important to you. There are two ways, using the blank to the left of each category heading. **Either . . .**

Rank each category from 1 to 16 in its order of importance to you, with 1 as the most important and 16 as the least, using each rank once, **or . . .**

Put a check mark in the blank beside the five most important category headings, leaving the rest blank.

Note: Your matches will be based mostly upon the more important categories, with the less important ones serving only as tie breakers. **No**es and **yes**es have very little effect in the lower ranked or unchecked categories. Some of your matches may have traits by which you circled **no**. However, **veto**es work the same regardless of category rank.

Example: Here is an example of how a hairy man with a mustache looking for a smooth partner with a mustache should mark the form if he regarded "Facial/Body Hair" as his third most important category.

3 Facial/Body Hair

me	veto	no	(ok)	yes	Smooth (rarely shave)
me	veto	no	(ok)	yes	Clean shaven
(me)	veto	no	ok	(yes)	Mustache only
me	veto	(no)	ok	yes	Full Beard
me	veto	no	(ok)	yes	Smooth (no body hair)
me	veto	no	(ok)	yes	Hairy legs (smooth chest)
me	veto	(no)	ok	yes	Hairy chest
(me)	(veto)	no	ok	yes	Very Hairy (teddy bear)

What's the Final Step?

When you have completed all five steps of the application, mail it with a check or money order for $20 (for 5 matches) or $30 (for 10 matches) to the address at the bottom of the form. Please allow 14 days to receive your order.

Cut along dotted line

ComQuest Application for Northern California

Form CU08 Copyright ComQuest 1988

Step 1 — Please **print** your name and mailing address below. This is only for our use in mailing you your matches, and is kept confidential.

Name _____

Addr _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ (optional)

I hereby affirm that I am at least 18 years of age and that I will hold neither ComQuest nor its owners liable for the behavior of the people I meet as a result of its services. (Your signature and date are **required**.)

Signed _____ Date _____

Step 2 — Please **print** the "contact information" below which will enable new applicants who get matched to you to contact you. This **must** include at least your first name and either a mailing address or phone number. You are limited to 125 letters, spaces, and punctuations. You may use any remaining space to briefly describe yourself and your interests. **If you do not wish for others to contact you, cross out this section.**

Steps 3, 4, and 5 (See instructions to the left of this application)

____ Residence

As with the rest of this form, circle **veto** by the residential areas from which you **do not** want to receive matches.

me veto no ok yes San Francisco
me veto no ok yes East Bay (Oakland)
me veto no ok yes Peninsula (Palo Alto)
me veto no ok yes San Jose/408 call area
me veto no ok yes Marin County
me veto no ok yes Sacramento/916 call area
me veto no ok yes Stockton/Fresno 209 area
me veto no ok yes Russian River/707 call area

____ Type of Relationship

Circle one **me** by your preferred relationship.

me veto no ok yes Lover (exclusive)
me veto no ok yes Lover (nonexclusive)
me veto no ok yes Romantic fling

me veto no ok yes Sex buddy
me veto no ok yes One night stand
me veto no ok yes Phone sex

me veto no ok yes Penpal/occasional visits
me veto no ok yes Friendship (platonic)

____ Entertainment/Social Activities

me veto no ok yes Fine arts events
me veto no ok yes Quiet evenings at home
me veto no ok yes Rock concerts
me veto no ok yes Spectator sports events
me veto no ok yes Going to the movies
me veto no ok yes Dining out
me veto no ok yes Parties
me veto no ok yes Dancing

____ Hobbies/Interests/Sports

me veto no ok yes Computers/electronics
me veto no ok yes Photography/arts/crafts
me veto no ok yes Aerobics/body building
me veto no ok yes Volleyball/softball/etc
me veto no ok yes Tennis/racquetball/etc
me veto no ok yes Cycling/jogging/running
me veto no ok yes Camping/hiking/nature
me veto no ok yes Cooking

____ Income/Education Completed

me veto no ok yes Less than $10,000
me veto no ok yes $10,000-$20,000
me veto no ok yes $20,000-$40,000
me veto no ok yes More than $40,000

me veto no ok yes Some high school
me veto no ok yes High school graduate
me veto no ok yes HS grad + some college
me veto no ok yes College graduate

____ Miscellaneous/Contact Info

me veto no ok yes Have **no** privacy at home
me veto no ok yes Have **no** transportation
me veto no ok yes Bisexual
me veto no ok yes Handicapped

Contact information (Step 2) includes

me veto no ok yes Both phone & address
me veto no ok yes Address but no phone
me veto no ok yes Phone but no address
me veto no ok yes Sexually explicit wording

____ Religious/Political Beliefs

me veto no ok yes Catholic
me veto no ok yes Protestant
me veto no ok yes Jewish
me veto no ok yes New Age Spiritual

me veto no ok yes Very religious
me veto no ok yes Agnostic/atheist

me veto no ok yes Conservative
me veto no ok yes Liberal

____ Vices

me veto no ok yes Non smoker
me veto no ok yes Light smoker
me veto no ok yes Heavy smoker

me veto no ok yes Non or light drinker
me veto no ok yes Moderate drinker

me veto no ok yes Non drug user
me veto no ok yes Occasional user
me veto no ok yes Frequent user

____ Personality

Circle no more than four **me**'s

me veto no ok yes Independent/confident
me veto no ok yes Easy-going/laid back

me veto no ok yes Good sense of humor
me veto no ok yes Shy/reserved/quiet

me veto no ok yes Responsible/mature
me veto no ok yes Youthful/spontaneous

me veto no ok yes Intellectual
me veto no ok yes Emotional

____ Masculinity/Social Attire

me veto no ok yes Very masculine
me veto no ok yes Fairly masculine
me veto no ok yes Somewhat feminine
me veto no ok yes Very feminine

me veto no ok yes Western
me veto no ok yes Jeans/casual
me veto no ok yes Preppy/semi-formal
me veto no ok yes Leather

____ Age Range

You **must** indicate your age

me veto no ok yes 18 to 20
me veto no ok yes 21 to 24
me veto no ok yes 25 to 29
me veto no ok yes 30 to 34
me veto no ok yes 35 to 39
me veto no ok yes 40 to 49
me veto no ok yes 50 to 59
me veto no ok yes 60 or over

____ Height/Weight

me veto no ok yes Shorter than 5' 6"
me veto no ok yes Between 5' 6" and 5' 9"
me veto no ok yes Between 5' 9" and 6 feet
me veto no ok yes Taller than 6 feet

me veto no ok yes Slimmer than average
me veto no ok yes Average for height
me veto no ok yes Heavier than average
me veto no ok yes Very heavy (chubby)

____ Race/Nationality/Hair Color

You **must** indicate your race.

me veto no ok yes Black
me veto no ok yes Asian/Oriental
me veto no ok yes Latino/Hispanic
me veto no ok yes Caucasian (white)

me veto no ok yes Black/brown/auburn hair
me veto no ok yes Blond or reddish hair
me veto no ok yes Graying or white hair
me veto no ok yes Balding

____ Facial/Body Hair

me veto no ok yes Smooth (rarely shave)
me veto no ok yes Clean shaven
me veto no ok yes Mustache only
me veto no ok yes Full beard

me veto no ok yes Smooth (little body hair)
me veto no ok yes Hairy legs (smooth chest)
me veto no ok yes Hairy chest
me veto no ok yes Very hairy (teddy bear)

____ Body Build/Genital Attributes

me veto no ok yes Muscular/bulky
me veto no ok yes Swimmer's build
me veto no ok yes Average build
me veto no ok yes Slender/delicate

me veto no ok yes Small to average size
me veto no ok yes "Well endowed"

me veto no ok yes Circumcised (cut)
me veto no ok yes Non-circumcised

____ Favorite Bedtime Activities

Circle no more three **me**'s.

me veto no ok yes Cuddling/caressing
me veto no ok yes J/O (manual stimulation)

me veto no ok yes French active (gives BJ)
me veto no ok yes French passive (gets BJ)

me veto no ok yes Greek active (anal top)
me veto no ok yes Greek passive (bottom)

me veto no ok yes Experimental/kinky
me veto no ok yes Safe sex only

If you insist on "playing safe" and prefer to use condoms if engaging in Greek activities, circle **me** and **yes** for this item. Circle **veto** if unwilling to "play safe." Circle **no** **ok** or **yes** (but not **me**) if willing to go either way.

Send completed form with check, money order, or credit card payment of $20 (plus $10 per additional set of 5 matches to ComQuest, P.O. Box 1069, Palatine, IL 60078

VISA/MC payment: Card No. ____-____-____-____ Exp date ____ Signature _____

Cut along dotted line

IT'S HARD TO

to find a better matching service than ComQuest

ComQuest™

Computer Matching

Cut along dotted line

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO BE BORED AND LONELY
WOMEN'S WEEKEND II
THE AMAZON EVENT THAT ATE GUERNEVILLE!
Come Play If You Dare . . .
SEPTEMBER 23, 24, 25 1988
FRIDAY, 10PM — THE WOODS:
Blush Productions presents
★ Erotic Dance for Womyn
★ DJ DISCO
SATURDAY, 12 PM — FIFES Bandshell
★ ROCK & ROLL and GAMES
★ E.T. and the Upstarts
★ The Dating Game & Rate a Dyke
12 - 1PM — Shuttle to "INNER TUBE" Race
SATURDAY & SUNDAY — FIFES
★ Volleyball
SAT. NITE, 8PM — THE WOODS:
★ Terry Baum in her One Woman Show one fool
SAT. NITE, 10PM — THE WOODS:
★ DJ DISCO
Hot New Wimmins Rock with
★ moo moo & the creamers
★ Kay Weaver
10PM — FIFES:
★ Gretchen Koch
FIFES ★ THE WOODS
SUNDAY OUTDOOR CONCERTS
TIME & LOCATION TBA
Lisa Cohen
Jeanine Strobel
Judi Friedman
The Blazing Redheads
Sue Fink! with Barbara Borden
Marga Gomez
TEA DANCE following concert
CRAFTS
Find your "INNER BUTCH" at the WW II Russian River "INNER TUBE Race"
FOR CAMPING/LODGING
FIFES (707) 869-0656
THE WOODS (707) 869-0111
A THRILLER
By
Carmen PRODUCTIONS